

# Shadow chasing

by Brenda Williams

Lucy and her twin brother Sam were walking through the park with their mother on their way to school. Although it was early Autumn, it was still warm enough for Sam to wear shorts on this sunny day, and Lucy was wearing her summer dress.

Sam suddenly noticed that his shadow was walking in front of him, so he waved his arms over his head.

“Look, Lucy,” he said. “My shadow is waving to your shadow!”

Lucy and her shadow waved back.

“Hey, shadow!” shouted Sam, jumping in the air with his legs wide apart. “Can you do this?” Shadow did the same. Lucy held her arms out wide and her shadow copied her.

“Let’s play shadow chasing!” she said, and off they raced, trying to catch their shadows.

“This is fun!” said Sam. “Let’s play shadow finding!” First they found the shadows of ducks waddling near the pond and then they ran along the shadow of a tall tree, falling across the path.

When they reached the zebra crossing near their school, the

shadows began to run along at their side, instead of in front, but the crossing lady and her lollipop stick had shadows which fell behind her as she held up the traffic.

Outside school, they met their friends Mehmet and Yasmin, and told them about their shadow games. Quickly, they kissed their mothers goodbye, and ran into the playground to chase and jump on each others’ shadows.

That morning at circle time, Sam, Lucy and Yasmin told their teacher, Mrs Robinson, about the shadows that had come to school with them.

Mehmet didn’t say anything at first, because he felt sure that the big brown teddy, sitting on a low cupboard behind Mrs. Robinson, had winked at him!

Mehmet blinked his eyes, and stared at the bear. Nothing happened. But then... YES! He was certain. The teddy had flicked one of his ears!

Mehmet was very polite, so he didn’t shout out. When it was his turn to speak, no-one believed him about the bear and Mrs. Robinson said she thought it was the wind blowing in through the window.

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But the truth is, Teddy really had winked his eye and flicked his ear! He was so excited listening to the children talking about their shadow games, he couldn't sit still!

"Do toys have shadows?" wondered Teddy. "I would love to go shadow chasing!" But he had to wait until the classroom was empty. Only then could he and the other toys come to life.

At last, in the afternoon, Mrs Robinson took the children to listen to a story with another class.

Immediately, Teddy clambered down the shelves and prodded Floppy Dog lying on a rug in the home corner. "Wake up, Floppy Dog! It's a sunny day and there are shadows for us to chase!" he said.

Floppy dog opened one eye. "Is it safe?" he asked.

"Yes, it's safe," said Teddy, shaking Rag Doll, who was in the book area, and Duck in the toy box.

Together the toys were soon tip-toeing through the corridors and out into the playground.

"Wow! It's hot!" said Duck and as

there were no puddles, he waddled off to stand in the shade of a wall.

Floppy Dog scratched his ears, shook himself, and said "Where are those shadows then? I'll soon chase them off!" And, growling and sniffing, he went searching everywhere.

"Where's my shadow?" cried Teddy. He didn't have a shadow! Until he turned around – and there it was! A teddy bear shadow! "Whoopee!" he shouted, standing on his front paws. "My shadow can do handstands!"

"My shadow can dance!" said Rag Doll, twirling on tip-toe.

Suddenly, the school bell rang, and quick as you can say 'shadows in the sunshine', the toys were back in the classroom.

Duck was so hot, he jumped into the water tray to cool off. Floppy Dog, still searching for shadows, flopped down under Mrs Robinson's desk, and Teddy and Rag Doll jumped onto a toy train.

"Mrs Robinson," asked Mehmet, when the children came in. "How did Floppy Dog get under your chair?"

Mrs. Robinson didn't know. But we do! Don't we?