

Everything is NO!

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Oliver was getting tired. He was upset. It made him very disagreeable. He started to whine. He started to pout. He started to stomp his feet. It was the beginning of an ugly tantrum. All the warning signs were there.

The problem was that he was not able to communicate well yet. He was only two. No one really knew what he wanted, and he could not tell them either. He just knew he wanted something. Why couldn't they understand him?

"Do you want some water?" Mom asked.

"No." He grumped.

"Do you need a snack?" Dad inquired.

"No!" He shouted. They still didn't get it. Why?

"Do you want to go to the bathroom?" Mom asked.

"NO!" Oliver started to cry now. It was so frustrating to not be understood.

Mom and dad looked at each other and shrugged. They couldn't guess what he needed.

"Do you feel sick? Do you hurt anywhere?" Dad asked.

"NO, NO, Nope!" Oliver shook his head and flopped on the ground.

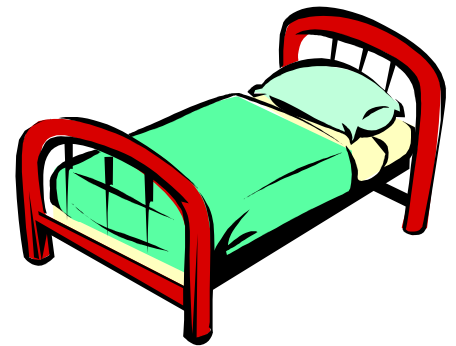
"Do you need your favorite toy?" Mom asked sweetly now.

Oliver thought for a moment. Toys? Was that it? "NO!" He screamed.

"Someone is sure getting cranky." Dad complained. "I think it's time for a nap."

"Nap." Oliver agreed. He was so sleepy. He rubbed his eyes.

"That's it! He's tired." Mom sighed in relief. Oliver did, too. They'd finally gotten it. Life was hard sometimes, Oliver thought as he settled into his nap.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Why does Oliver get mad at his parents?
 - A. They don't love him.
 - B. They don't give him treats.
 - C. They are mean to him.
 - D. They don't understand what he wants.

2. Which of these things does Mom ask Oliver about?
 - A. the bathroom
 - B. snacks
 - C. feeling sick
 - D. sleep

3. Which of these things does Dad ask Oliver about?
 - A. water
 - B. toys
 - C. feeling sick
 - D. bathroom

4. What does Oliver really want?
 - A. sleep
 - B. love
 - C. food
 - D. toys

5. How does Oliver feel when he finally gets his nap?
 - A. bad
 - B. scared
 - C. sad
 - D. relieved

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