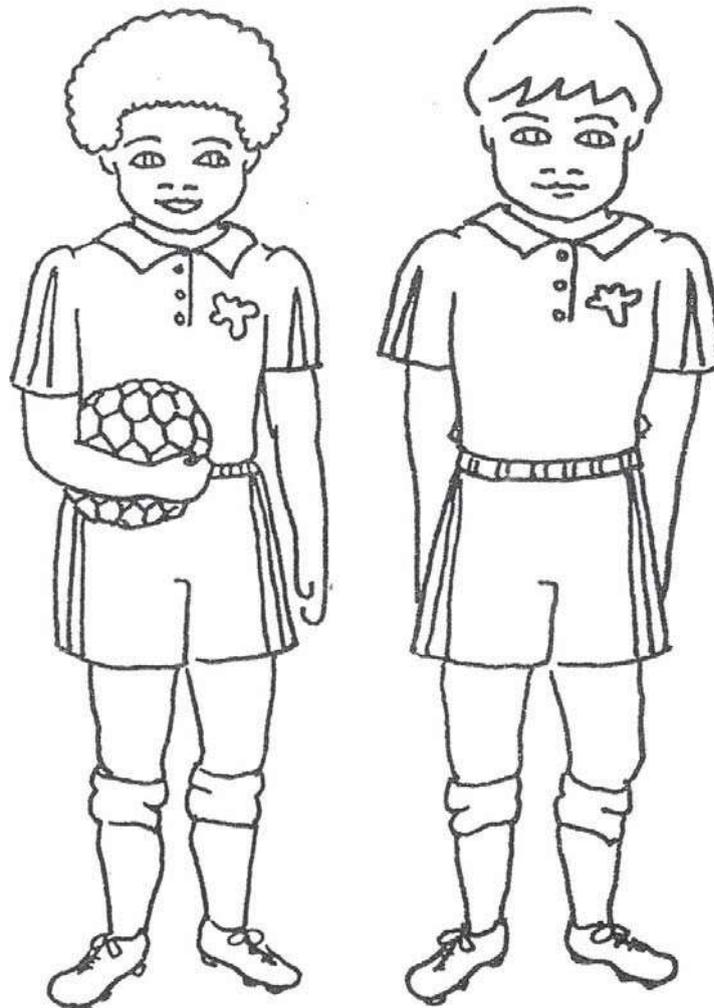


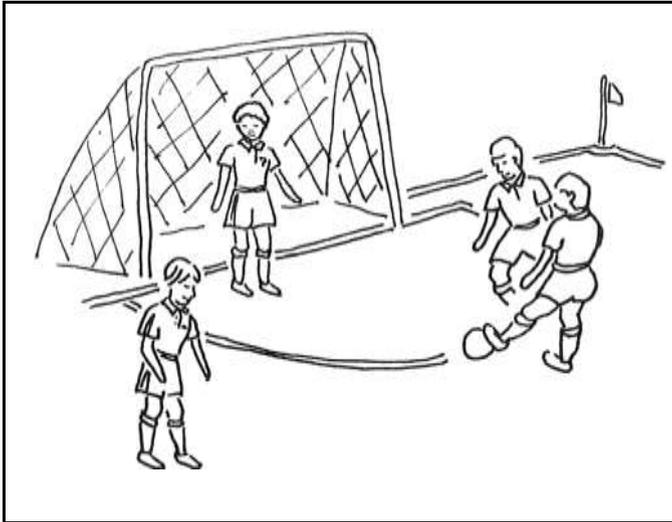
‘The winning goal’

A booklet for boys under 10

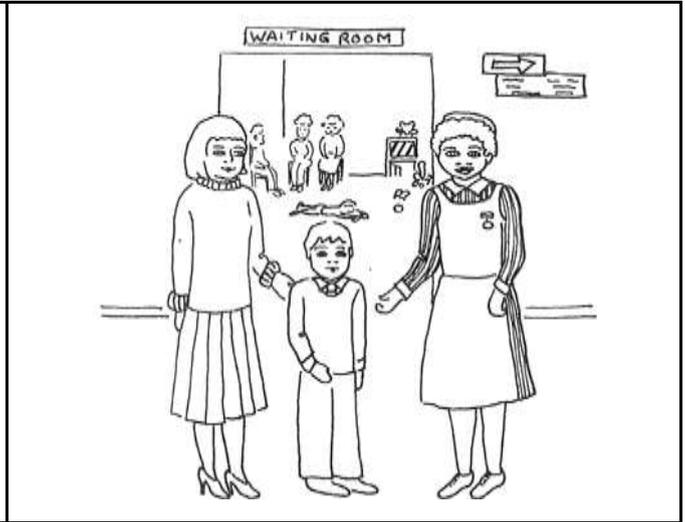
Specially written by Gina Malyon



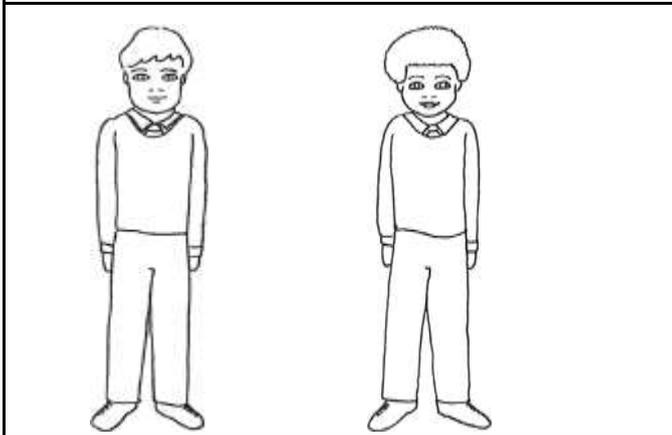
Peter and Sam are nine years old. They both play football for the Kingston under elevens team.



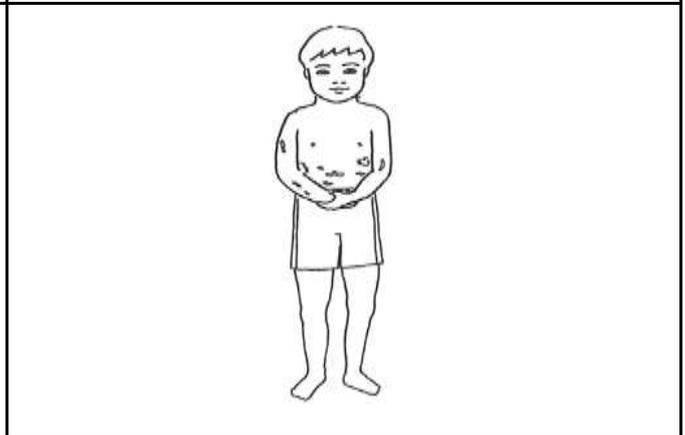
1. Every Wednesday after school is practice time, to get ready for the match on Saturday morning.



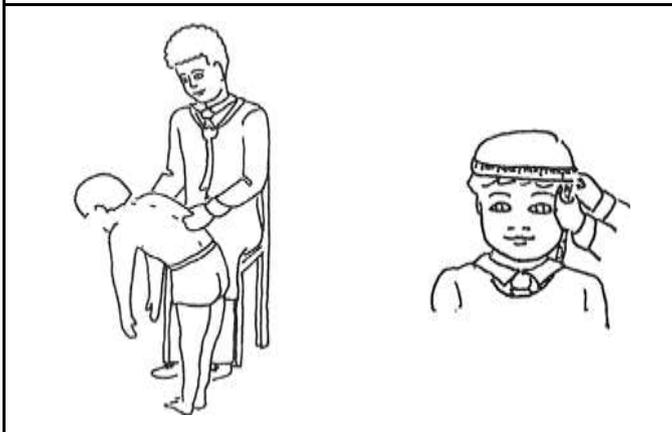
2. Sometimes Sam has to miss practice if he has to visit the hospital for his check-up.



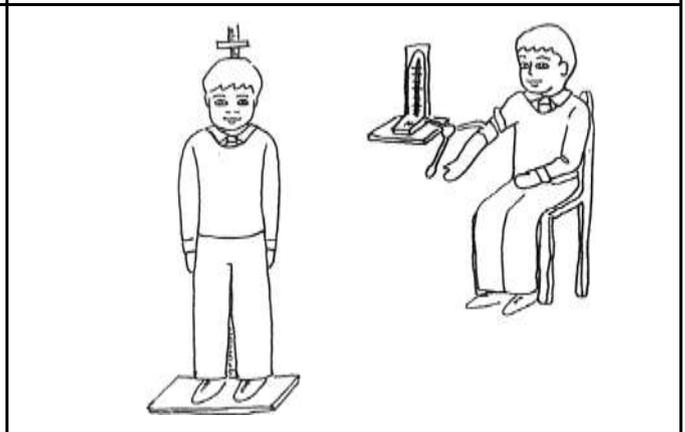
3. Sam visits the doctor because he has something special — it is called Neuro-fibro-matosis. Peter calls it NF. This is much easier to say.



4. Sam has brown patches on his body. These look like big freckles. They are called café au lait patches.



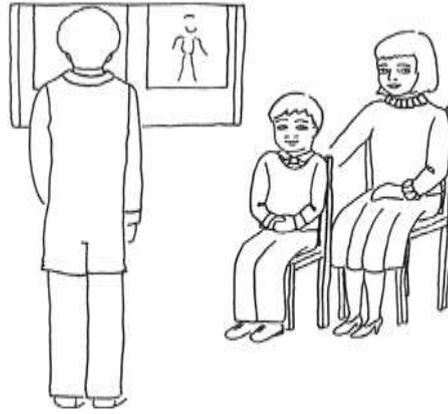
5. The doctor looks at Sam's spine to see that it is growing straight. The doctor also measures Sam's head.



6. The nurse measures Sam to see how much he has grown. Sam then has his blood pressure taken. The band around his arm fills with air and squeezes Sam's arm.



7. Sometimes Sam has a scan. He goes for a ride on a big machine. The machine makes funny noises and takes pictures of Sam's body.



8. The doctor looks at the pictures to see how Sam is growing. Sam thinks the doctor is funny.

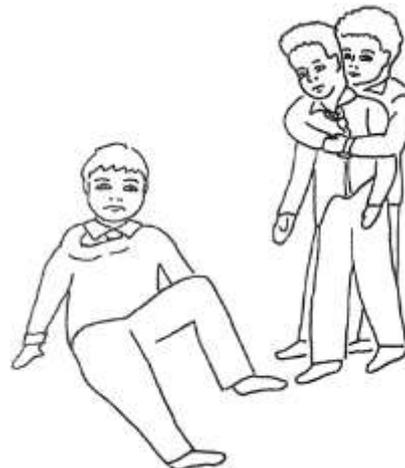


9. The doctor asks Sam and his mother lots of questions. Sam's mother explains anything that Sam does not understand.

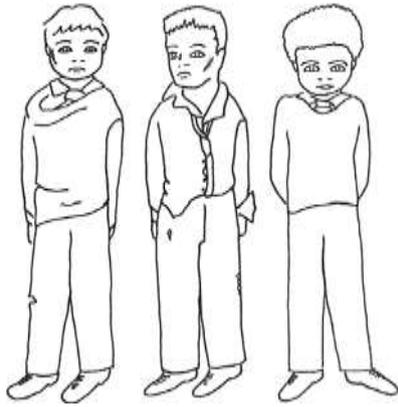
10. Like other children at school Sam sometimes has problems with his school work.



11. When Sam is asked to read aloud in class, he finds this hard to do.



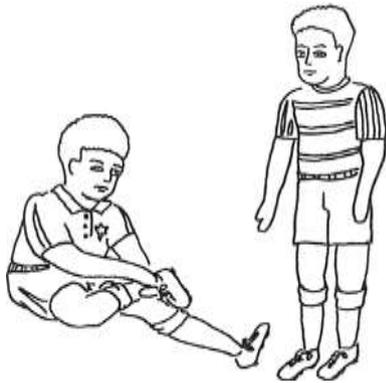
12. One day when Sam was in the playground the school bully picked on him because of the café au lait patches. Peter helped stop the bully.



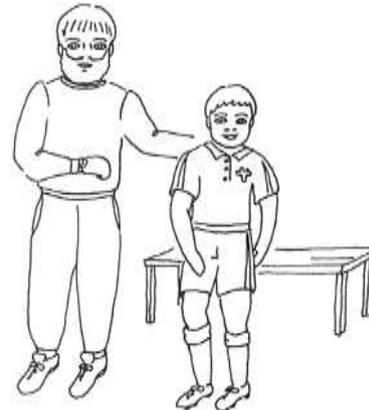
13. The bully, Sam and Peter had to go to Mr Benn, the headmaster, who told them that it was wrong to bully others. Mr Benn told Sam to come and see him if it happened again.



14. Saturday was the final of the under elevens. Sam was feeling very sad, he was reserve. He had missed practice because of his check-up and now might not play.



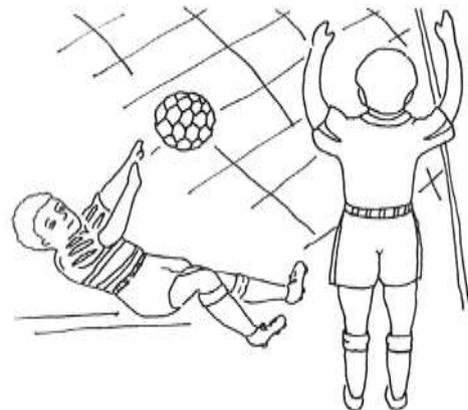
15. Suddenly, with ten minutes to go and the score at one all, Billy Thompson tripped and hurt his ankle.



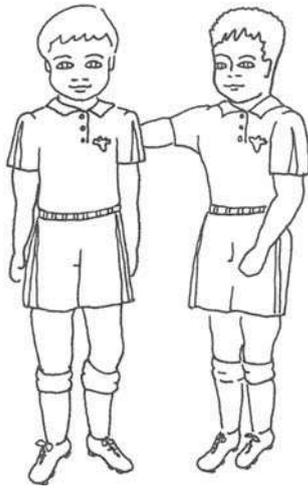
16. The coach sent Sam to take Billy's place.



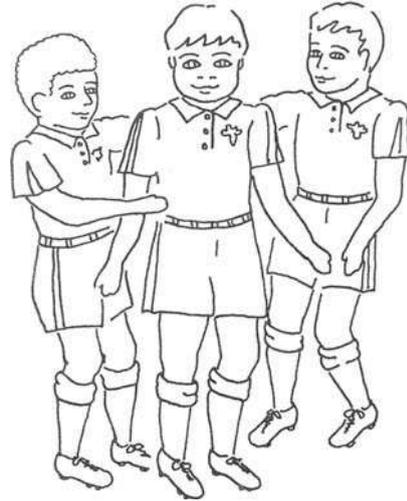
17. Time was running out. The ball headed towards Sam. The school bully saw Sam go for the ball — he also ran for the ball. As Sam reached the ball, the bully slipped and slid past Sam.



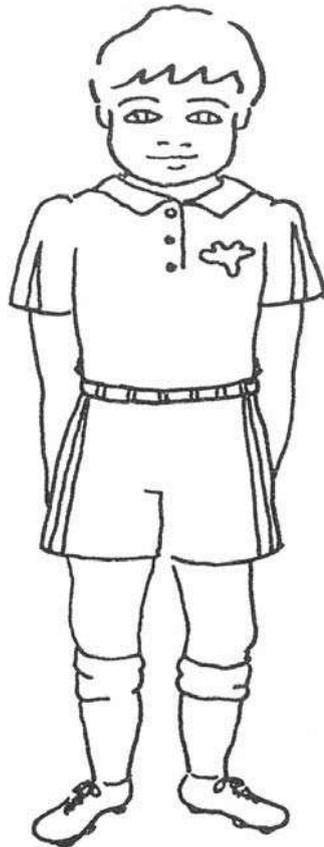
18. Sam kicked the ball with all his might. 'Thud' — straight into the back of the net — just as the whistle blew for full time.



19. The bully walked up to Sam. He patted Sam on the back and said 'nice goal, Sam'.



20. All of Sam's team mates hugged and cheered him. Sam had scored the winning goal!



21. Sam told Peter after the match that when you score the winning goal, having NF isn't so bad after all.

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What is Neuro-fibro-matosis?

Our bodies are controlled by our brains and things like little wires called nerves: they help us to see and hear and feel and move and learn.

How we are made is controlled by things called genes which we inherit from our parents. The genes are the code for building human beings. Sometimes there is a mistake in the code and something goes wrong. Sometimes the genes go wrong all by themselves before the baby is born. Neuro-fibro-matosis (NF, 'enn-eff') is caused by one of these mistakes and affects the nerves.

People with NF usually have six or more marks like birth marks which are the colour of milky coffee and they are called café au lait patches. A lot of people have one or two of these marks anyway. People with NF sometimes have difficulties with learning, writing, sums or remembering things which others don't have, even though they are just as clever as anyone else. Sometimes NF can make people not very good at games or catching a ball but, like Sam in the story, they may be especially good at some particular thing. Sometimes other things go wrong too but more often people with NF are able to lead a normal life like anyone else although they have to have check-ups with the doctor now and then.

There is a Charity for people with NF which is able to tell them all about NF and help them if they have special problems (for contact details, see below). Nerve Tumours UK also raises money to help doctors find a cure. There are doctors all over the world working very hard on this and we know that one day they will succeed.

Please seek further information from www.nervetumours.org.uk, or contact our helpline on the details above.

Nerve Tumours UK has taken reasonable care to ensure that the information contained in its publications is accurate. Nerve Tumours UK cannot accept liability for any errors or omissions or for information becoming out of date. The information given is not a substitute for getting medical advice from your own GP or other healthcare professional.

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