

COMPASSION explorer®

SPECIAL
BOARD
GAME
INSERT
INSIDE!

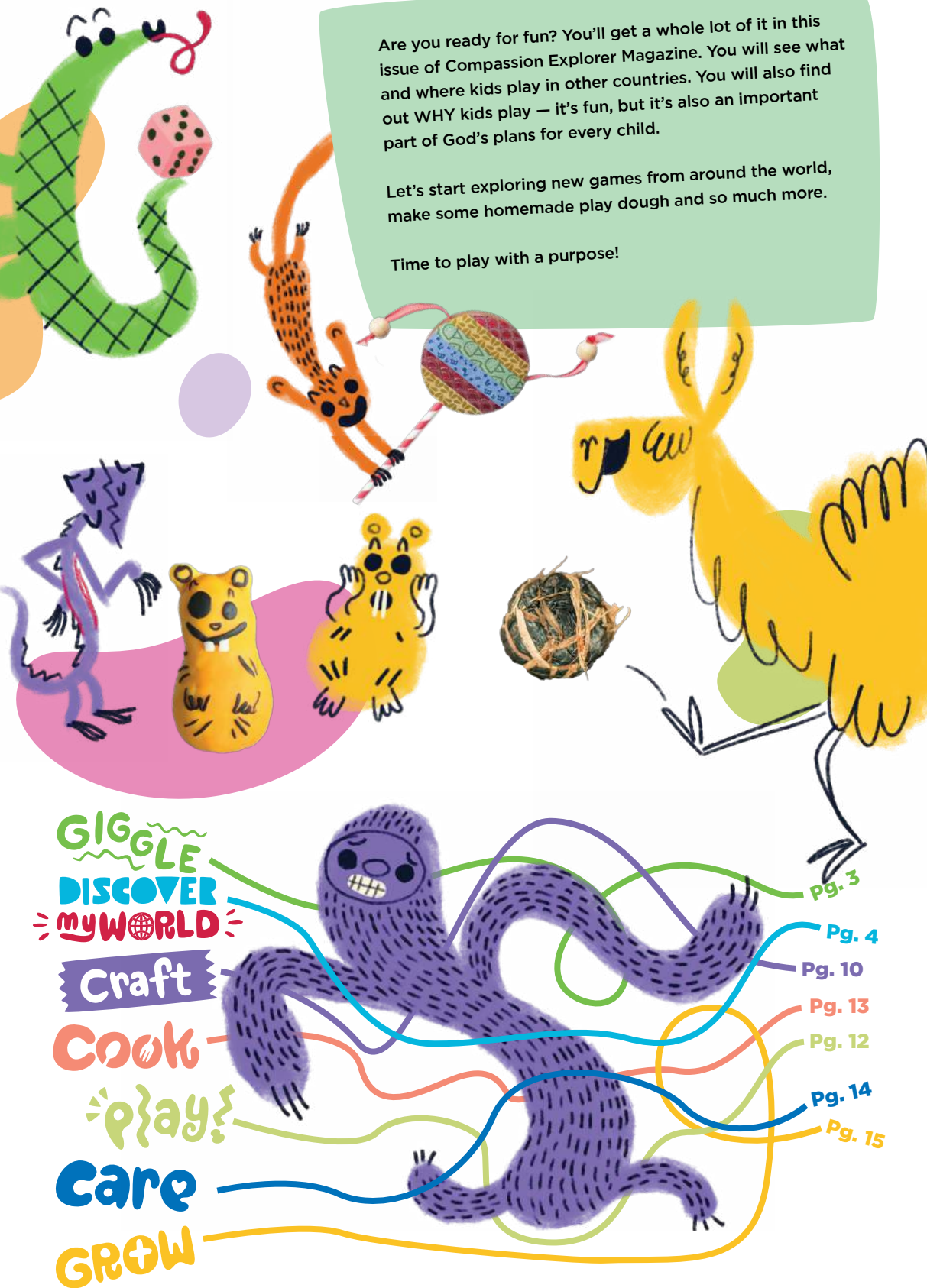
WHAT'S IT LIKE TO
PLAY LIKE ME?

ALL EXPLORERS, COME OUT TO PLAY!

Are you ready for fun? You'll get a whole lot of it in this issue of Compassion Explorer Magazine. You will see what and where kids play in other countries. You will also find out WHY kids play — it's fun, but it's also an important part of God's plans for every child.

Let's start exploring new games from around the world, make some homemade play dough and so much more.

Time to play with a purpose!



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GIGGLE

Remember this picture from the Spring 2022 Compassion Explorer Magazine? It shows Samuel (in the red mask) and his friend Isac dressed as superheroes at their Compassion center in Bolivia. Here are some of your great captions! Find more at explorer.compassion.com/explorers.

Never fear. We'll save you!

Julie, 12
Huntsville, Ala.

Ready for takeoff!

Chloe, 11
Columbia, Mo.

Samuel: "I love it when people say, 'Dream big dreams' because I just can't stop!"

Myla, 11
Gladwin, Mich.

"Never fear, Bolivia. Super Samuel and Super Isac are here to save the day!"

— Samuel

Maiya, 12
Kingston, Ontario

We are going to save the world!

Lyric, 8
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Everyone, go this way!

Kyan, 5
Colorado Springs, Colo.

We're bigger than a mountain! (I just hope we don't step on people!)

Micah, 11
Kutztown, Pa.

Don't be afraid! I have the power of Jesus on my side!

Laurelai, 11
Nampa, Idaho

To infinity and beyond!

Hannah, 11
Douglass, Kan.

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26, NIV).

Maria, 11
Buffalo Gap, S.D.

Mario (Samuel): I'll throw fireballs at Bowser!

Luigi (Isac): I'll rescue Princess Peach!

Asher, 5
Wells, N.M.

Check out the next Giggle photo on the back cover!



DISCOVER
myWORLD



WHAT'S IT LIKE TO PLAY LIKE ME?



Playtime is an Explorer's favorite time! Whether you're playing sports, music, games or make-believe, it's the best time to get those wiggles out and have FUN! But did you know that playtime isn't just fun and games? It's an important part of growth for kids in a lot of different ways! Physical activity helps your body get strong, and playing with friends helps you grow relationally too! All around the world, playtime is an exciting and important part of life for every kid. Let's hop, skip and jump around the world as we celebrate all the different ways we play!



Where are your favorite places to play?



BANGLADESH: GAMES



BANGLADESH: GAMES

Hi! My name is Sajib, and I live in Bangladesh. Check out this old bicycle tire I found one day after school! One of my favorite games is using this stick to roll it as I run. I love to compete with my friends to see who can make it go the fastest. My family can't afford store-bought toys, but I am clever and creative, so I like to invent my own games. Have you ever made up your own game? I would love to play with you!

What is a game you have made up?

How do you like to play?



TOGO: MUSIC

Hi! My name is Sylvia, and I'm from Togo. Today I'm dressed in our community cultural dress because we are about to dance and play music! My friends beat drums and shake shakers while I sing and dance. I love to play music together because it reminds me of family traditions that date back hundreds of years. When we play, our whole community comes to watch!



Learn to make a musical instrument on Page 10!

EL SALVADOR: SPORTS

My name is Levi, and I live in El Salvador! I love to go to my Compassion center and play soccer. I have a rare disease that keeps me from growing as much as other kids. I used to feel different from everyone, and sometimes kids would leave me out. But when I play soccer with my friends at my Compassion center, I don't feel different anymore. I'm part of a team and can show off my cool soccer moves!

What is your favorite sport?

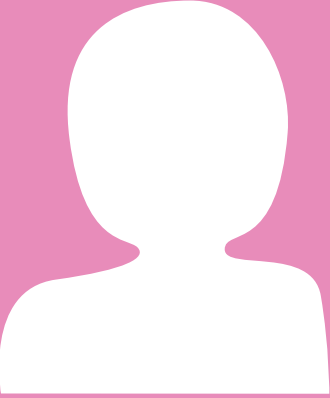


Learn how to make your own soccer ball like these resourceful kids in Uganda!

explorer.compassion.com/plasticbagball



What does your superhero mask look like?



**BOLIVIA:
MAKE-BELIEVE**

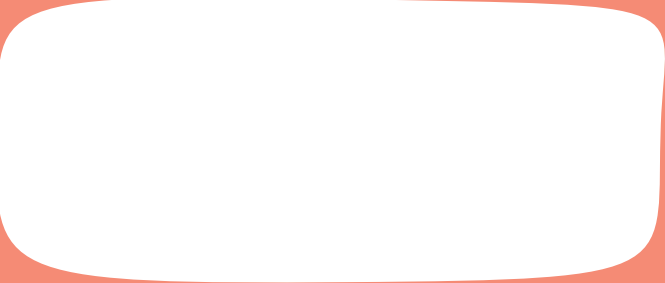
My name is Aracely, I'm from Bolivia and I like to play make-believe with my friends! Today we are pretending to be superheroes. If I could have any superpower, I would want to run fast and save people from accidents before they get hurt! My friend Samuel wants to fly so he can save people from trouble. And Maydelin wants to be able to make clean water so her friends and family can have enough to drink! It's fun to imagine what we could do if there were no limits!



What do you like to pretend?



What does your sponsored child like to play? Ask in a letter!



Whom do you like to play with?



**HOW DO YOU
PLAY?**

Kids all around the world love to play. There are so many places to play, games to learn and instruments to practice! Think about all the ways you play. How do you feel when you are playing with your siblings or friends?

Next time you write to the child your family sponsors, ask about the games he or she likes to play. What games are the same? What games are different? You might even be able to teach each other how to play a new game you didn't know about!

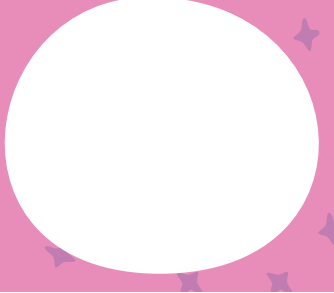
Draw anything!



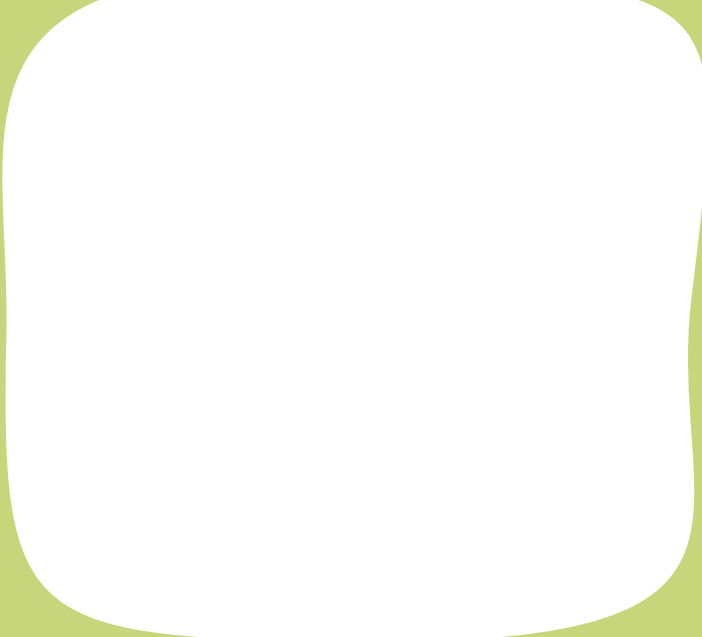
How many games have a special ball? Draw as many as you can think of here:



What is your favorite toy?

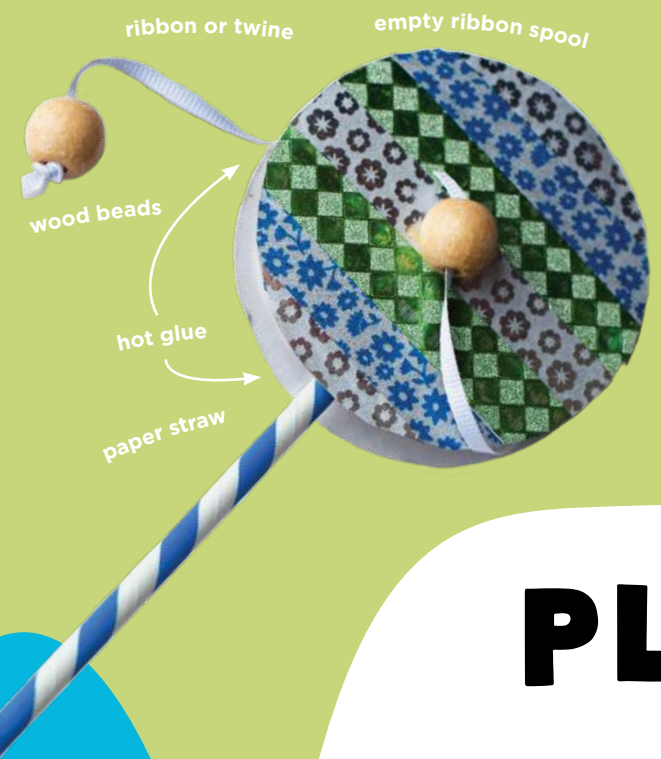


Imagine the best treehouse EVER. Draw it here!



If you wrote a song about your family, what would it be called?





Craft

DEN DEN DRUMS

Popular in Asia, these hand-held drums are fun instruments to make on your own!

PLAY A SONG WITH ME!

There are lots of ways that kids around the world play — including playing MUSIC! A lot of kids in poverty make their own instruments out of things around their homes. Pick an instrument on these pages to make yourself, and play your favorite song. And if you're feeling adventurous, write a song of your own!

MARACAS

These fun noisemakers are popular all across the Caribbean and Latin America! Most of the time they're played in pairs, so make sure you make enough of them!



plastic egg filled with uncooked rice, beans, split peas, etc.

plastic spoons

washi tape



sequins

jingle bells

thin string or yarn

colorful felt

MUSICAL ANKLET

These anklets jingle with every step. They are popular in both Africa and Asia, especially at special ceremonies.

balloon

elastic band

chopsticks



BONGO, RICE SHAKER & GÜIRO

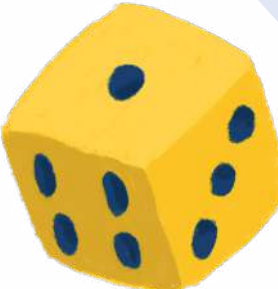
This instrument is a 3 in 1! You can hit it like a bongo, shake it or play the ridged sides of your can like a *güiro*, a Latin American percussion instrument.

empty and clean tin can filled with uncooked rice, beans, lentils, etc.

FULL INSTRUCTIONS AT
EXPLORER.COMPASSION.COM/PLAYASONG

play!

Let Your Creativity Roll



All you need to play this game is one six-sided die, a few art supplies of your choice and your creativity! See if you can get your family or friends to guess what you're describing, drawing, sculpting, acting out or singing about.



These creative kids are drawing pictures at their Compassion center.



1 Roll for your CREATIVE ACT

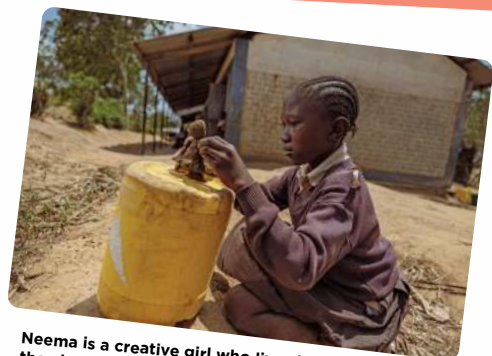
What's your move? Roll a die to find out!

- draw or sculpt
- act it out
- make up a story
- sing a song
- make up a short, rhyming poem
- WILD — pick any of the above actions

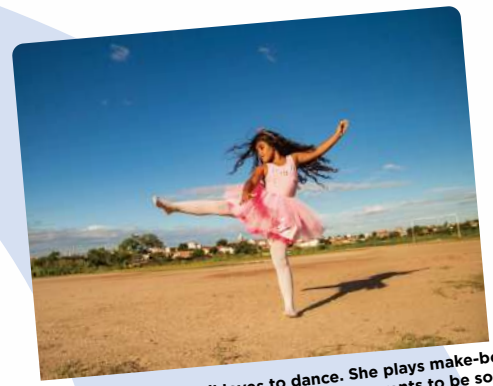
2 Roll for your SUBJECT

What will your story, acting, song, poem or art be about? Roll the die to find out!

- a person (you choose — it could be a specific person or a type of person such as a ballerina or a grandfather)
- an animal (you could choose a type of animal or a certain pet)
- a toy or game
- a movie, book or TV show
- your sponsored child
- this llama



Neema is a creative girl who lives in Kenya. She sculpts with the claylike soil near her home and Compassion center!



Iarytssa in Brazil loves to dance. She plays make-believe as a professional ballerina — what she wants to be someday.



let's make

play dough

Cook

DID YOU KNOW PLAY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS EATING YOUR VEGETABLES TO GROW UP HEALTHY?! YUP, YOU READ THAT RIGHT!

One way to celebrate play is with a recipe for homemade play dough.

Ingredients

- 2½ c. all-purpose flour
- ¾ c. salt
- 2 tbsp. cream of tartar
- ¼ c. vegetable oil
- 1¼ c. boiling water
- Food coloring
- Quart-size bags
- Large bowl
- Spatula

Recipe



In a large bowl, mix the flour, salt and cream of tartar.



Adult help needed. Add the vegetable oil and boiling water. Using a spatula, mix until combined. Once it's cool enough to handle, use your hands to knead the dough until it becomes smooth.



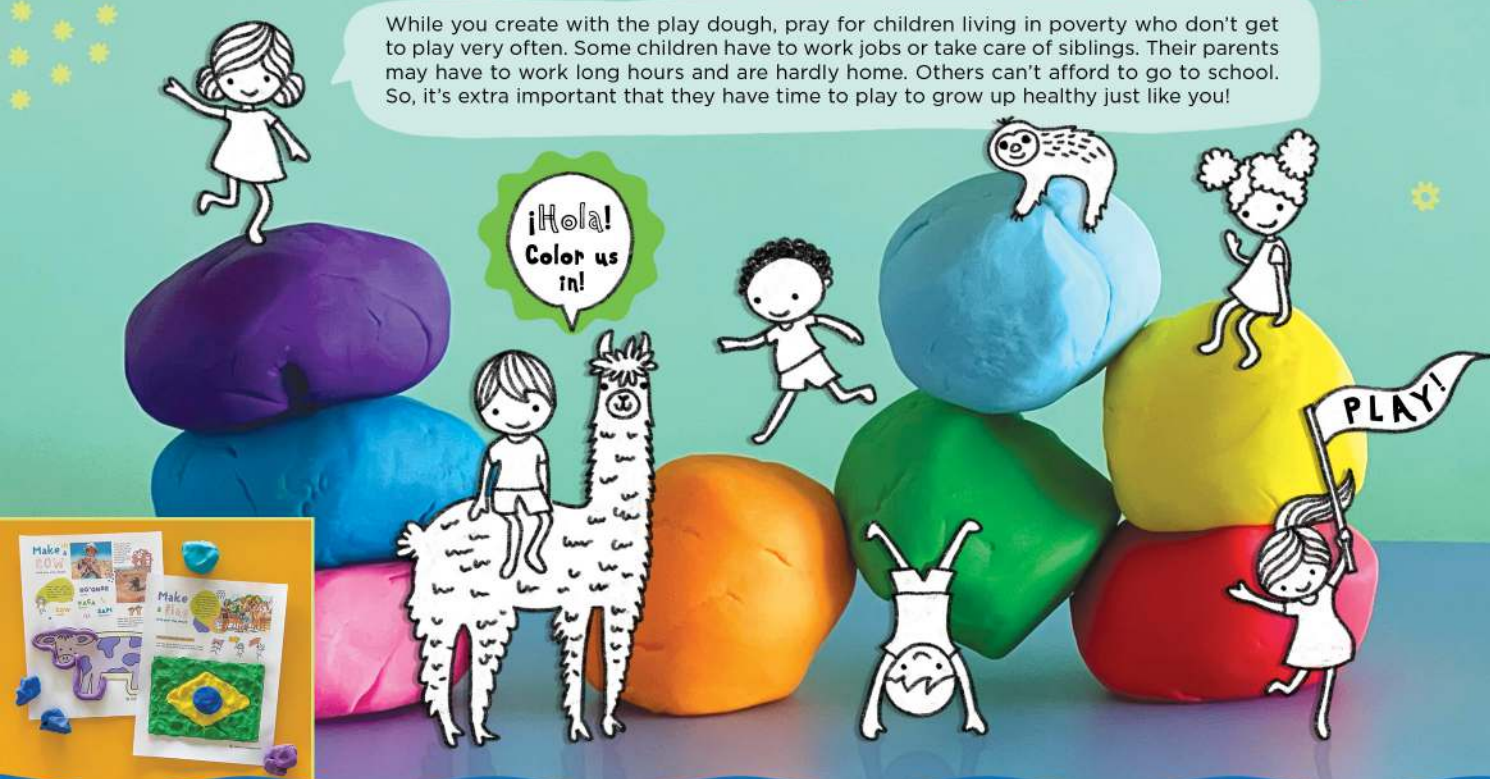
Divide the dough into balls (for how many colors you want). Then put the dough into the quart-size bags. Start with about 5 drops of color. Knead the dough while inside the bag so it doesn't stain your hands.



Now you're ready to PLAY! Squish it, roll it, stack it — what will you create? Parents, print our play dough learning mats for more ways to play! Find the link below.

Pray

While you create with the play dough, pray for children living in poverty who don't get to play very often. Some children have to work jobs or take care of siblings. Their parents may have to work long hours and are hardly home. Others can't afford to go to school. So, it's extra important that they have time to play to grow up healthy just like you!



For more fun, download our play dough learning mats at explorer.compassion.com/playdough



A Life-Changing Birthday

Traynor looked up at the tall, red rocks around him as he logged the seventh mile of his hike. He wiggled his toes in his boots and was relieved he could still feel them despite the cold October morning. “How about a few more miles?” he shouted to his family a few paces behind him. **It was Traynor’s birthday, after all. If he wanted to go a few more miles, that’s exactly what they would do.**

This was not how Traynor’s mom imagined he would be spending his birthday. Although Traynor loved the outdoors, four miles was the most he had ever hiked. On top of that, Traynor struggled with allergies and a compromised immune system that sometimes kept him on the sidelines. **But his mom has learned not to underestimate Traynor.**

Just a few weeks before they found themselves in a hiking area in Colorado, **Traynor told his mom that for his 12th birthday he had set a big goal: hike seven miles and raise \$10,000 for children in poverty.** Traynor’s big idea snowballed quickly. He created fliers, designed T-shirts and took to

social media to raise support. Before long, people he didn’t even know began donating to help children in need.

Traynor remembers, “I was just thinking about how much God gave me and how I can give back!” He shares a birthday month with the child his family sponsors through Compassion and knows what a struggle life can be for her. That’s why Traynor chose to raise money for the Where Most Needed Fund at Compassion. He wanted to be sure he could do the most good at just the right time for children in need.

Back in the canyon, Traynor and his family marched right past his seven-mile goal. At each mile marker, they stopped to take a picture. In each photo, Traynor’s smile seems to get bigger and bigger. **His family wondered with amazement, “How far will he go?”** It seemed that Traynor had a new goal in

“We need to help people that don’t have as much.” – Traynor



mind now that he was on the trail — 12 miles for his 12th birthday. One mile for each year of his life — a life he knows is a gift from God. **“Sometimes people take for granted what they have,” Traynor says.** “We need to help people that don’t have as much.”

As Traynor stepped off the trail after completing his 12th mile, he was greeted with cheers of support and a bright blue Compassion lanyard placed like a medal around his neck — a small token of appreciation for a big act of kindness.

If your family wants to help Traynor reach his big goal, ask an adult to go to explorer.compassion.com/traynor.



When you get home from school, what is the first thing you choose to do? Maybe you grab your favorite toy or video game or ask a friend to play with you. Whatever you do, you want to have fun! **God loves for his children to have fun.** When you create your own game or laugh along to your favorite movie, God is smiling with you.

God wants us to have happy hearts. He wants us to use all of the energy he gave us. **So how can we play in a way that makes God glad? We can share our toys with others. We can invite someone who is alone on the playground to join a game. We can be kind if friends get upset when they lose.**

So we should have fun! Then what should we do when we are done?

When God made the world, he had fun playing with his imagination. He created the ocean, animals, people, sunsets and more. When he finished after six days of work, he rested. After we have our fun we should rest too. **God watches over you when you lie down in front of the TV and when you go to bed.** Sometimes we want to stay up past our bedtime, but sleep is also a gift that makes us still with God.

The Bible says that every good and perfect gift comes from God. He takes great joy in the fun and the rest. That means we should thank God for everything that makes us happy and gives us energy for the next day. When you are in the middle of playing, take time to tell God how thankful you are for the fun you are having. When you are going to bed, thank God for rest and ask for a good night of sleep.

Guest devotional by Emma Miller, student at Grace Church in South Carolina

Read

1 Corinthians 10:31

Everything we do can be for God’s glory. Finishing our vegetables at dinner, running around during recess and even just reading a book can make God glad. We can also do things that go against what God wants. Cheating in a game and eating a dessert your parents don’t know about don’t glorify God.

Act

When you play or rest or eat, notice God is in the room with you. How would he feel about what you choose to do? When you have fun in a way that glorifies him, he is having fun with you! When you go to bed each night, he is watching over you.

Pray

Thank God for all of the good and perfect gifts he gives you. Then, you can ask him to help you do things in a way that pleases him.



GIGGLE

Submit your caption at:

explorer.compassion.com/giggles

Six-year-old Genesis might look a little unsure about her first day of school, but she's happy to go! "I want to start classes right away and use the school supplies I was given," she says. Her parents didn't have the money to buy her supplies. But Genesis is sponsored in Compassion's program, and she got everything she needed to start school!

MORE FUN ON THE WEBSITE! EXPLORER.COMPASSION.COM

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explorer

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About the Cover

Maia, 4, is swinging on a blue tire swing outside her Compassion center in the Dominican Republic. Sadly, kids who live in poverty like Maia does don't always have safe places to play. So it's extra exciting that Maia and her friends get to swing and have fun at their Compassion center!

