

# OLIVER'S SAFETY SQUAD



# BACK TO SCHOOL

It's the first day of school! Pip can't wait — she's already bouncing. Oliver's tail is wagging but his tummy feels a little funny. New places can feel like that, even for brave pups. But having Pip next to him makes everything feel a little less big. They do their nose bump, add their spin, and walk in together.



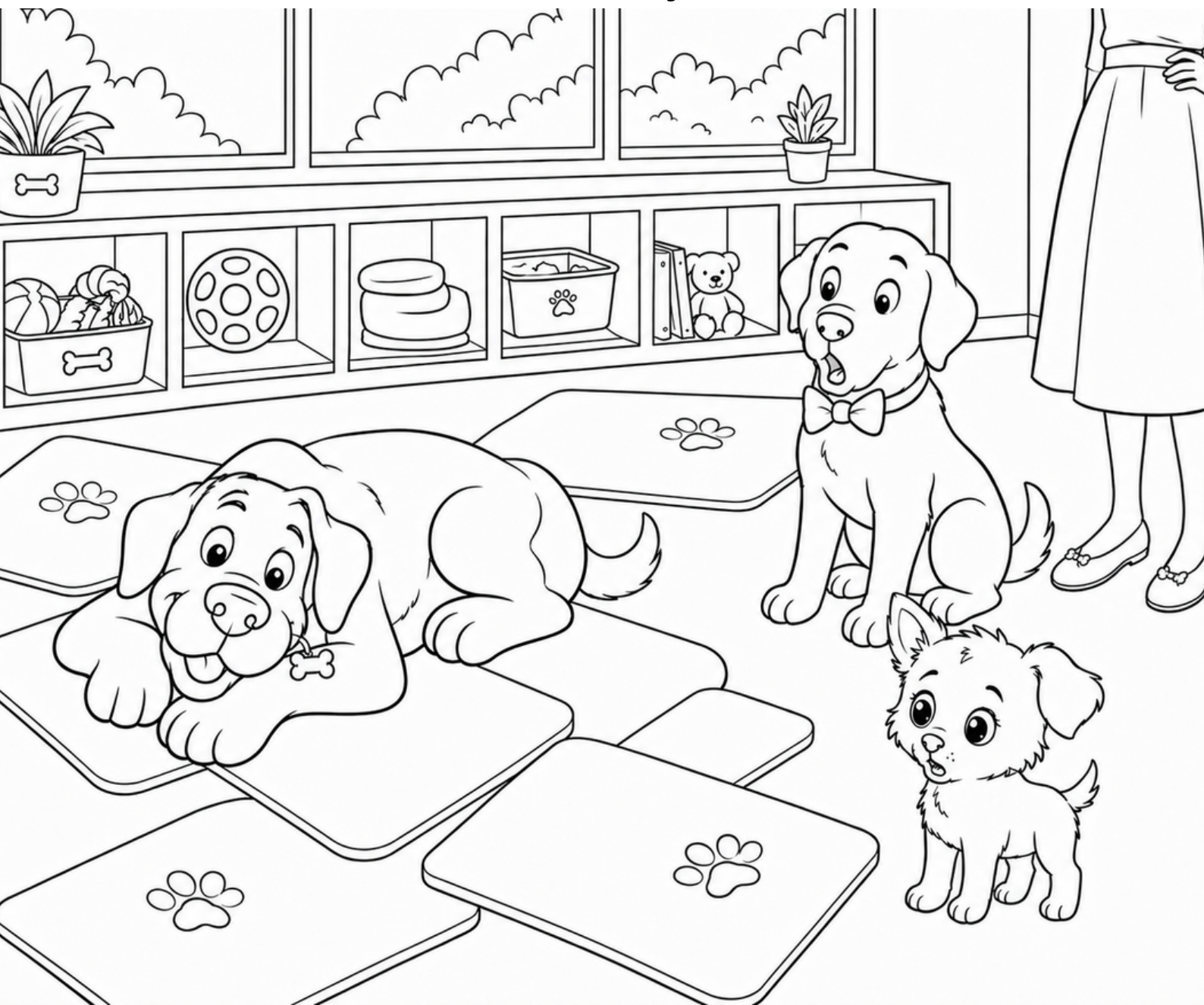
**COME ON**

**OLIVER!**

Oliver and Pip walk into class and look around. There are puppies everywhere! Some are sniffing their mats, some are already making friends, and one very round puppy in the corner is trying very hard to look invisible. Oliver finds a mat, sits down, and takes a deep breath. This isn't so bad. The teacher smiles and waves everyone in.



And then — MEATBALL. The door flies open and in slides the biggest, loudest, wiggliest puppy anyone has ever seen. She bumps into a mat, trips over a rug, steps on someone's tail, and doesn't stop wagging for a single second. “HI EVERYONE I'M MEATBALL!” Every puppy in the room turns to stare. Oliver looks at Pip. Pip grins, “I like her already!”



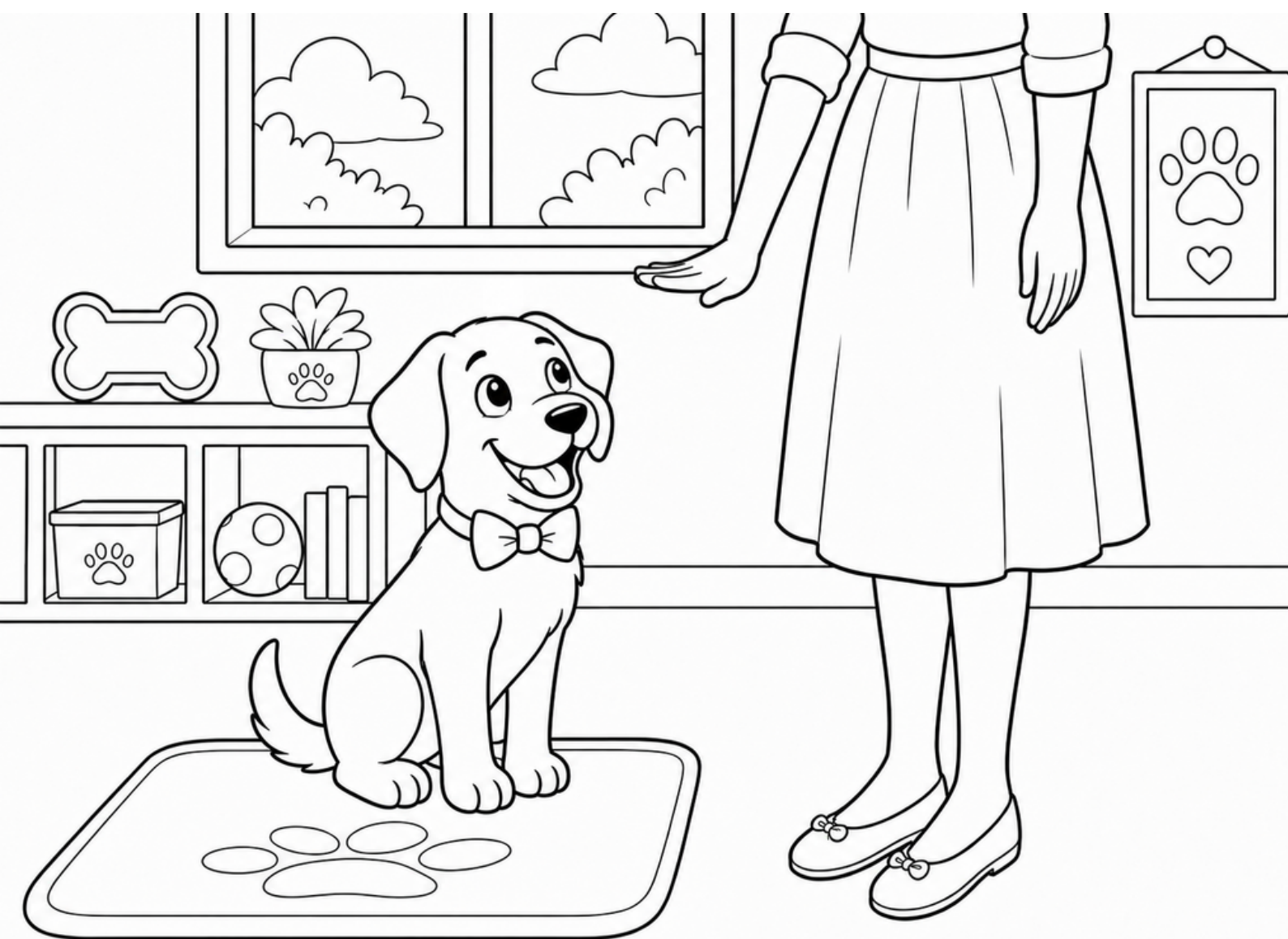
Okay, maybe this is harder than Oliver thought. The teacher wants everyone to sit on their mats and watch. But Oliver's legs are wiggly and his mat feels SO small. A puppy near the back won't stop barking at the puppy next to him. Meatball has already rolled off her mat twice. The teacher holds up two fingers and points at her own eyes — watch me. Every puppy looks up. Even the wiggly ones. Even Meatball. When the teacher has something to say, she makes sure every puppy can hear her — or see her.



Okay — maybe school IS pretty fun. The teacher shows everyone how to roll over and suddenly the whole room is a mess of tails and paws and puppy bellies. Meatball rolls so hard she bumps into three other puppies. Oliver gets halfway over and just stays there with his legs in the air. Pip nails it on the first try and takes a little bow. Even Dumpling tries — and when he rolls, the whole floor shakes a little. Everyone is laughing too hard to be nervous anymore.



Next up — stay. The teacher holds up her palm and every puppy tries their best to hold still. Some puppies are naturals. Pip doesn't even blink. Dumpling sits like a statue — he's been practicing staying still his whole life. But Meatball shakes like she might explode, stay is HARD! Oliver thinks he's got it down, but wow he really wants to wiggle!



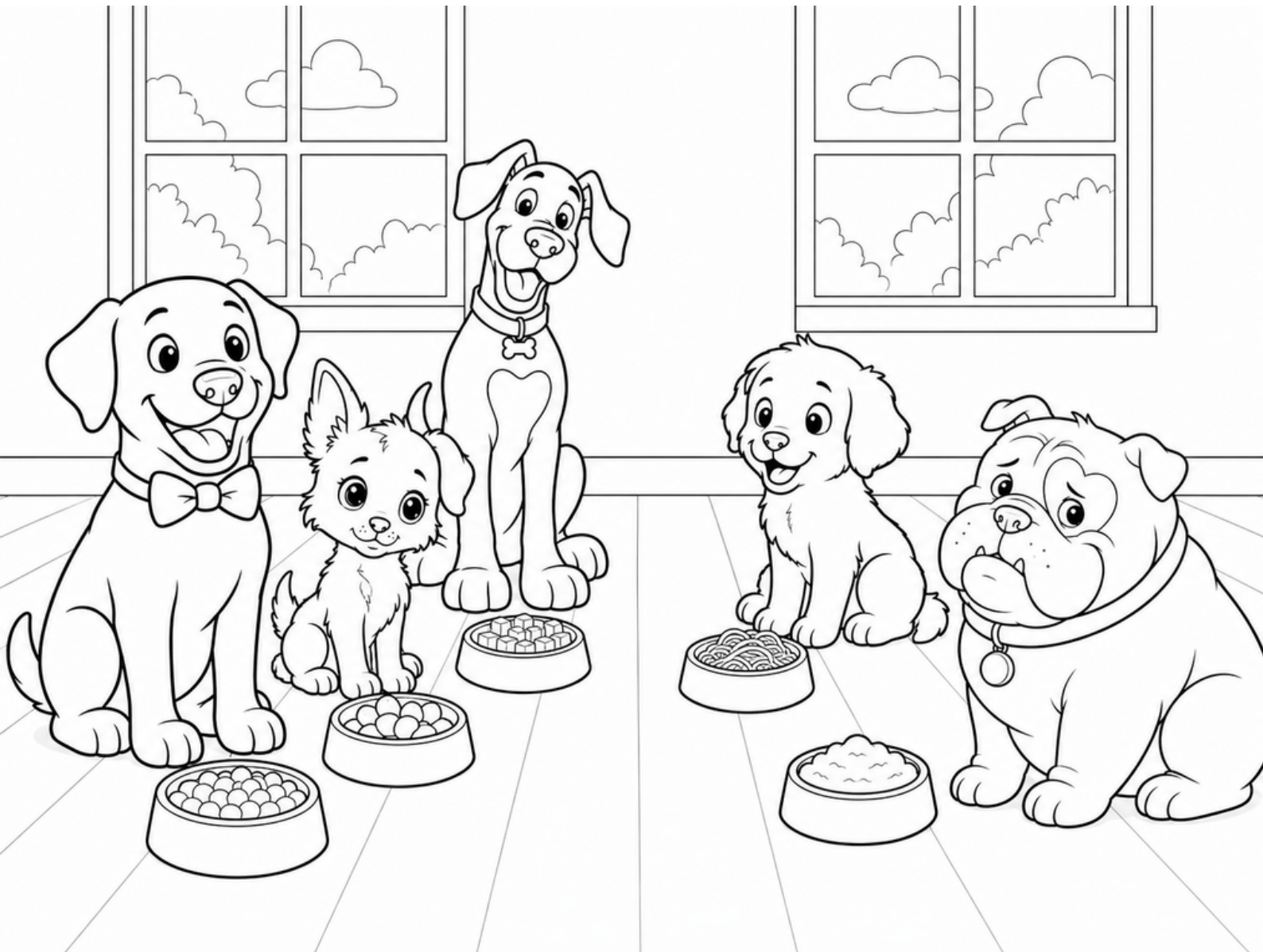
GOOD JOB

OLIVER!

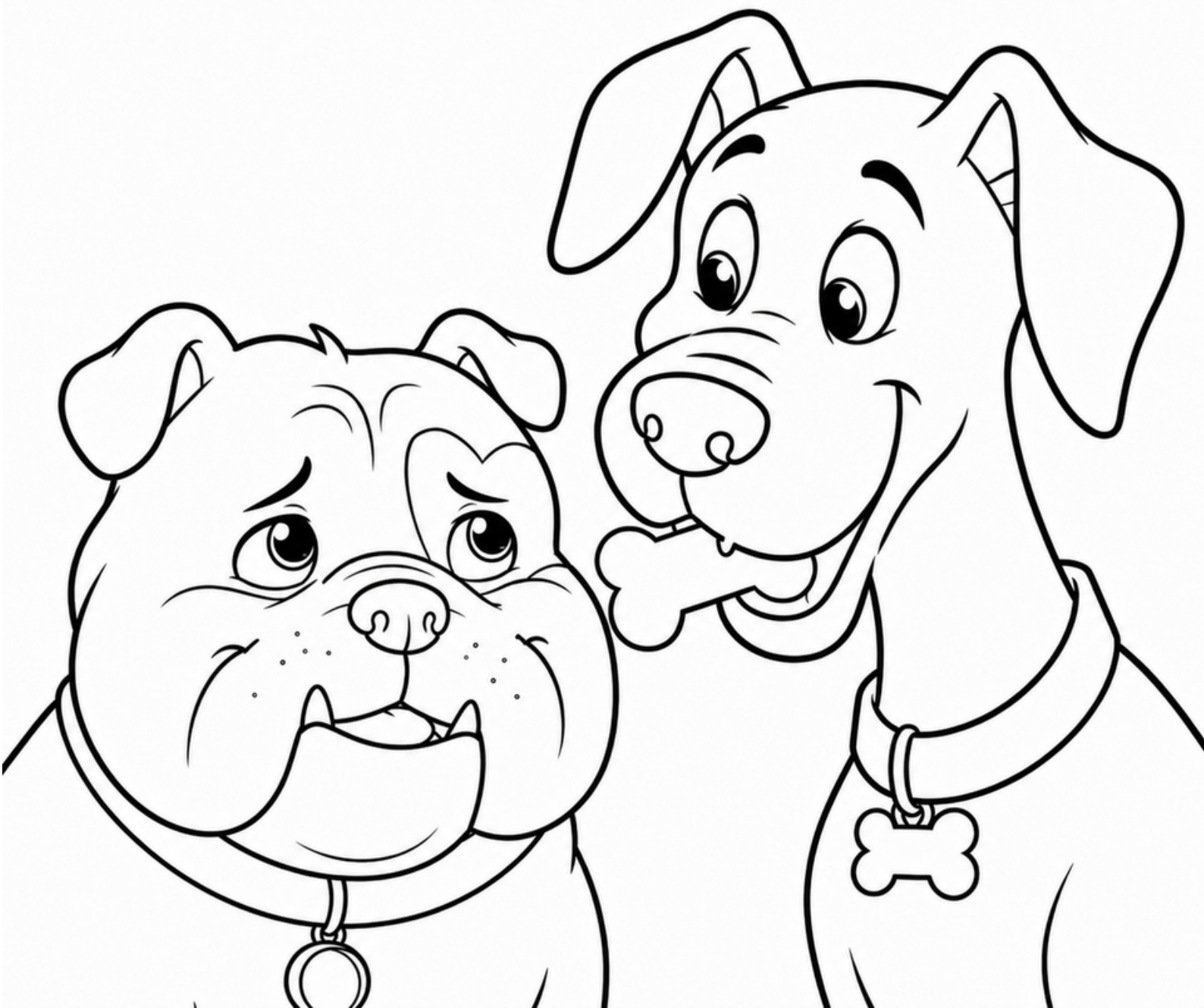
Meatball brought something from home. It's the biggest, loudest, squeakiest toy anyone has ever seen and she is SO proud of it. She squeaks it once and every puppy in the room turns around. She squeaks it again and nobody can remember what the teacher was saying. It's just SO COOL. The teacher smiles and says “Meatball, that is an AMAZING toy. But right now it's learning time. How about we save it for recess?” Meatball's ears droop for a second. But then she puts it in her cubby and sits back down. It's still going to be amazing at recess.



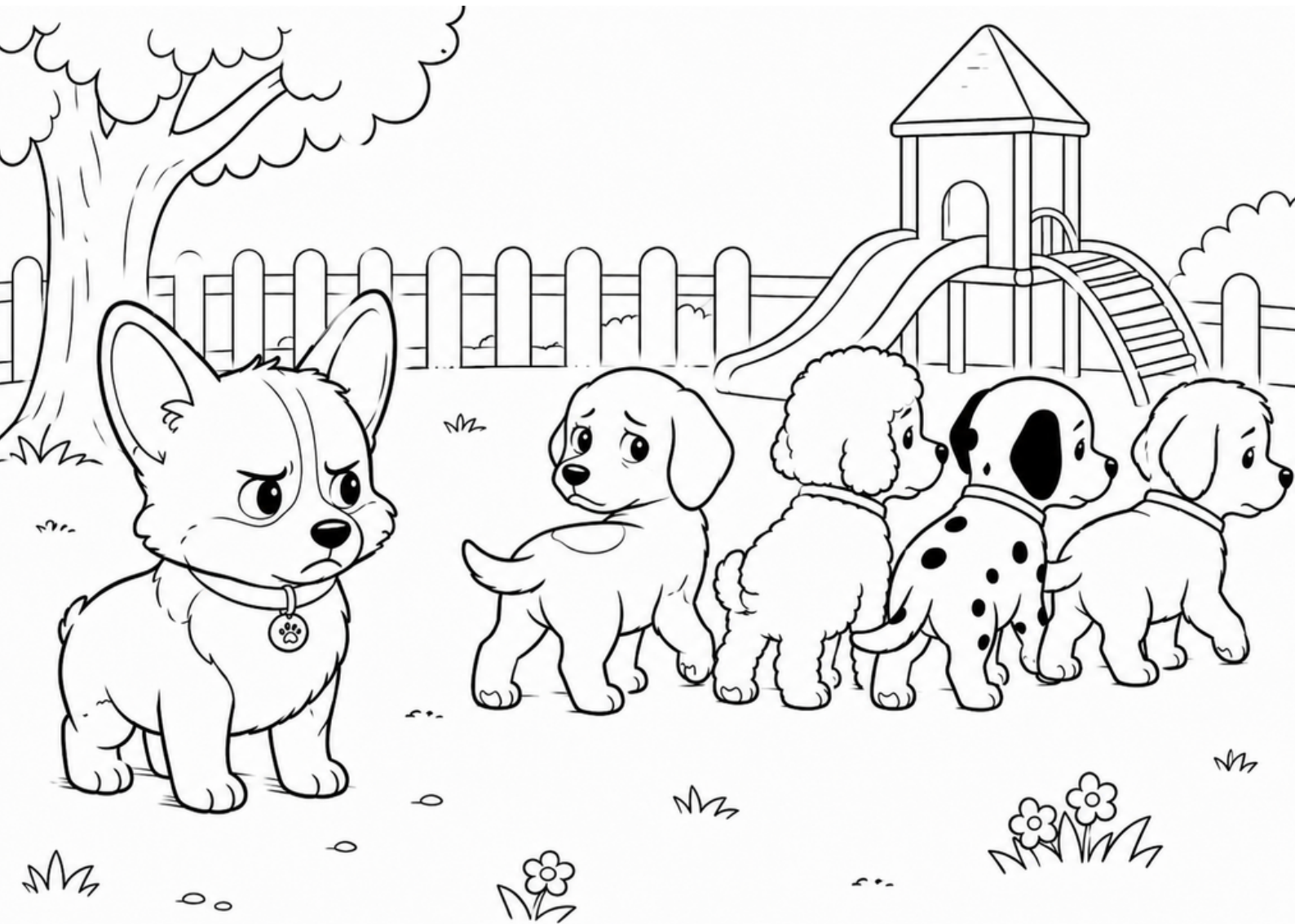
Lunchtime! Everything smells amazing. One puppy has something warm and spicy from their mom's kitchen. Another has crunchy biscuits their grandpa bakes every Sunday. Meatball somehow has enough food for four puppies and is already offering bites to everyone. Pip pulls out something her family makes at home and before she can even take a bite, three noses are already sniffing in her direction. Pretty soon everyone is trading and sharing and trying things they've never tasted before. Lunch is loud and messy and perfect.



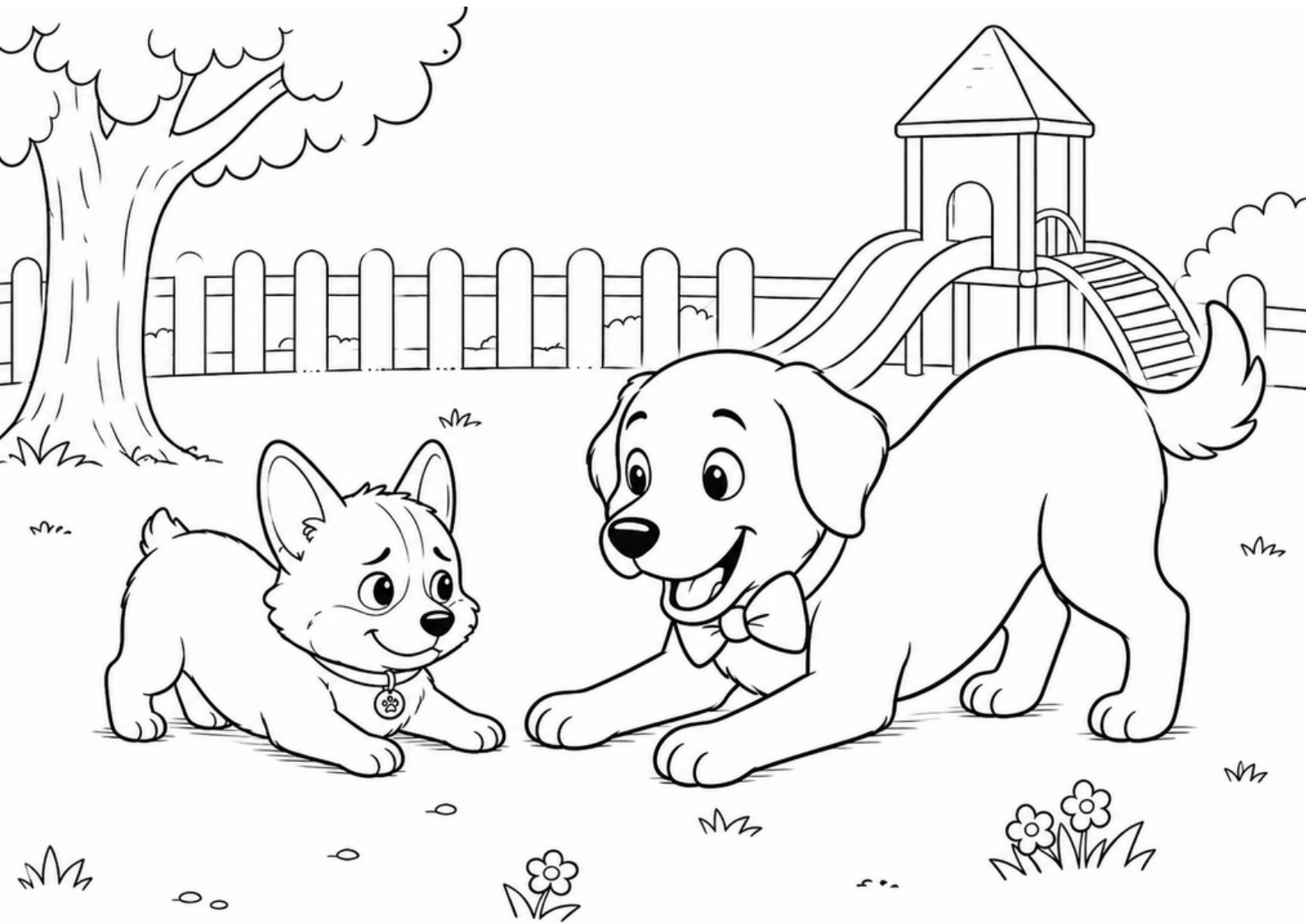
Dumpling is sitting at the edge of the group with his lunch still untouched. He wants to join in but the words won't come. Everyone is so busy sharing and laughing — what if there isn't room for him? Then something lands in front of his nose. It's a treat. He looks up and there's Meatball, sitting down right next to him like she's been there the whole time. She doesn't say anything big. She just nudges her snack a little closer and starts eating. Dumpling is so happy. Maybe there IS room.



At recess one of the puppies plays a little too rough. He nips and tumbles and bumps into everyone — not to be mean, but because nobody ever showed him how to be gentle. When a smaller puppy yelps and walks away, the rough puppy stops. He looks around. The yard feels a lot bigger when you're standing in it alone."



Oliver sees the little corgi sitting alone and trots back over. He doesn't say “you were too rough.” He just drops into a play bow — nice and slow. The corgi watches. Then he bows back, a little softer this time. They play again. It's not perfect, but it's better. And better is a really good place to start. Oliver knows some puppies just need help learning to play nice.



After recess the lights go down for nap time. The classroom gets very quiet. Most puppies curl right up. But Dumpling can't sleep. He misses his family. Everything feels far away and his mat feels very small. He thinks he should learn to be brave by himself, and then he realizes that sometimes asking for help is the bravest thing you can do. Dumpling asks his friends if someone would sit with him. Before he can even worry that nobody heard, Meatball is there. Then Pip. Then Oliver. Asking for help wasn't so hard after all!



BRRRING! After nap time, a loud bell fills the classroom and some puppies jump. But the teacher stays calm and so does Oliver. They are practicing a fire drill! Everyone lines up, walks outside, and goes to their special spot. No running. No pushing. Just walking together. The teacher counts every nose to make sure everyone is here.



After the drill, there's a surprise — a real fire truck! The firefighters look really big in all their gear. Some puppies aren't sure about them.

But when one firefighter kneels down and takes off her helmet, there's just a friendly face inside. She shows the puppies what every piece of gear does and why. “If you ever see us in a fire,” she says, “run TOWARD us, not away. Our gear might look a little scary, but we're here to help you!”



The school day is over and the puppies wait for the bus together. Oliver knows the rules — stay on the sidewalk, wait until the bus stops ALL the way, and never ever chase anything into the street. Meatball is bouncing because Meatball is always bouncing. Pip keeps looking around to make sure everyone is together. Dumpling is standing right with the group now. He's found his pack!



The bus is warm and quiet. Oliver watches the school get smaller through the back window. Meatball is fast asleep with her head on her giant squeaky hot dog. Pip is sitting with a puppy who was shy at the start of the day, talking quietly about tomorrow. And Dumpling? Dumpling saved a seat for Oliver. For the first time all day, he didn't wait to be invited. Oliver looks around at all of his new friends, he thinks this is going to be a great school year.



## Note to Parents:

The first week of school is a lot of feelings in a very small backpack. Excitement, nerves, confusion, loneliness, laughter, and the slow magic of finding your people — sometimes all before lunch. This book is for every kid who's ever felt too big, too small, too loud, too quiet, or not quite sure where they fit. The answer is the same for all of them: you belong here. And so does the kid sitting next to you.

If your child comes home from school with a story about their day, follow it wherever it goes. You don't need the perfect response. Just listen. That's what Oliver would do.

Find more of Oliver's adventures and free coloring books at [OliversSafetySquad.com](http://OliversSafetySquad.com)

