

Orange Shirt Day



Based on Phyllis (Jack) Webstad's story

By Heather Androsoff

SocialStories4Kids.com



Digital social stories for school and home that support children's social-emotional learning and development.

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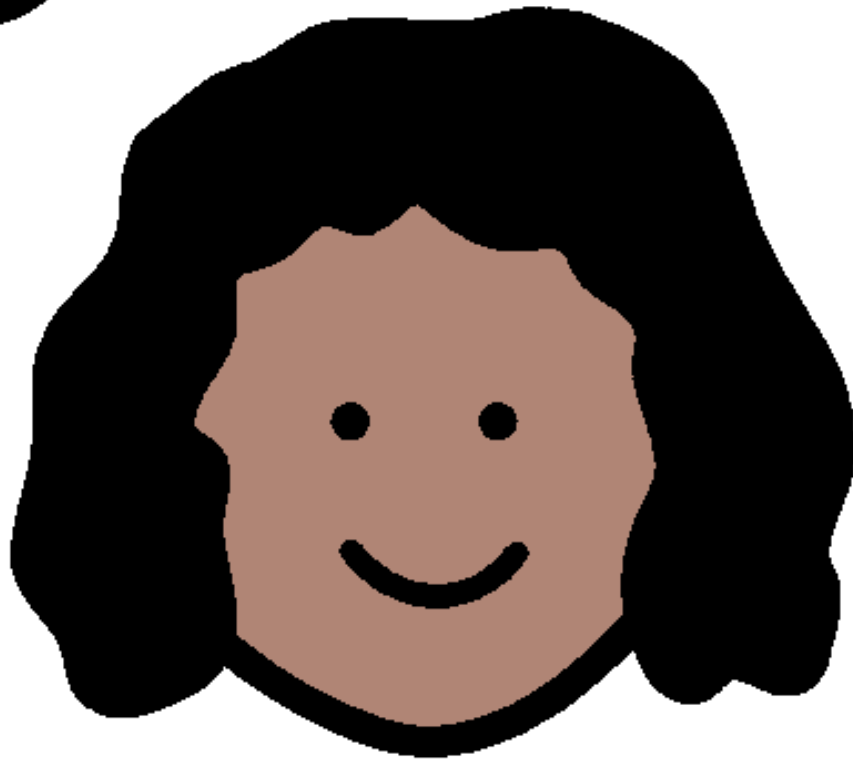


I would like to acknowledge and thank my colleague and friend, Marjean Brown (Nisga'a), who I consulted throughout the creation of this social story and who continues to support and encourage me on my learning journey.

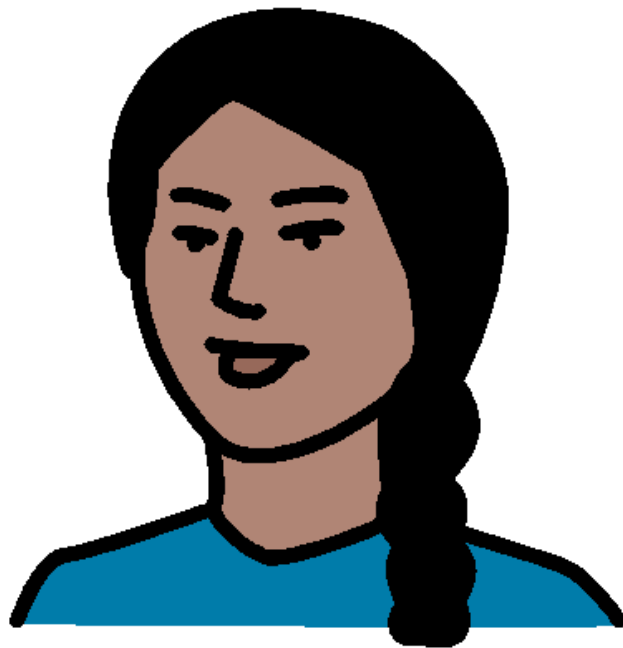
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I was six years old.

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I lived with my
grandmother on
the Dog Creek
Reserve with the
other Secwpeḿc
First Nations families.



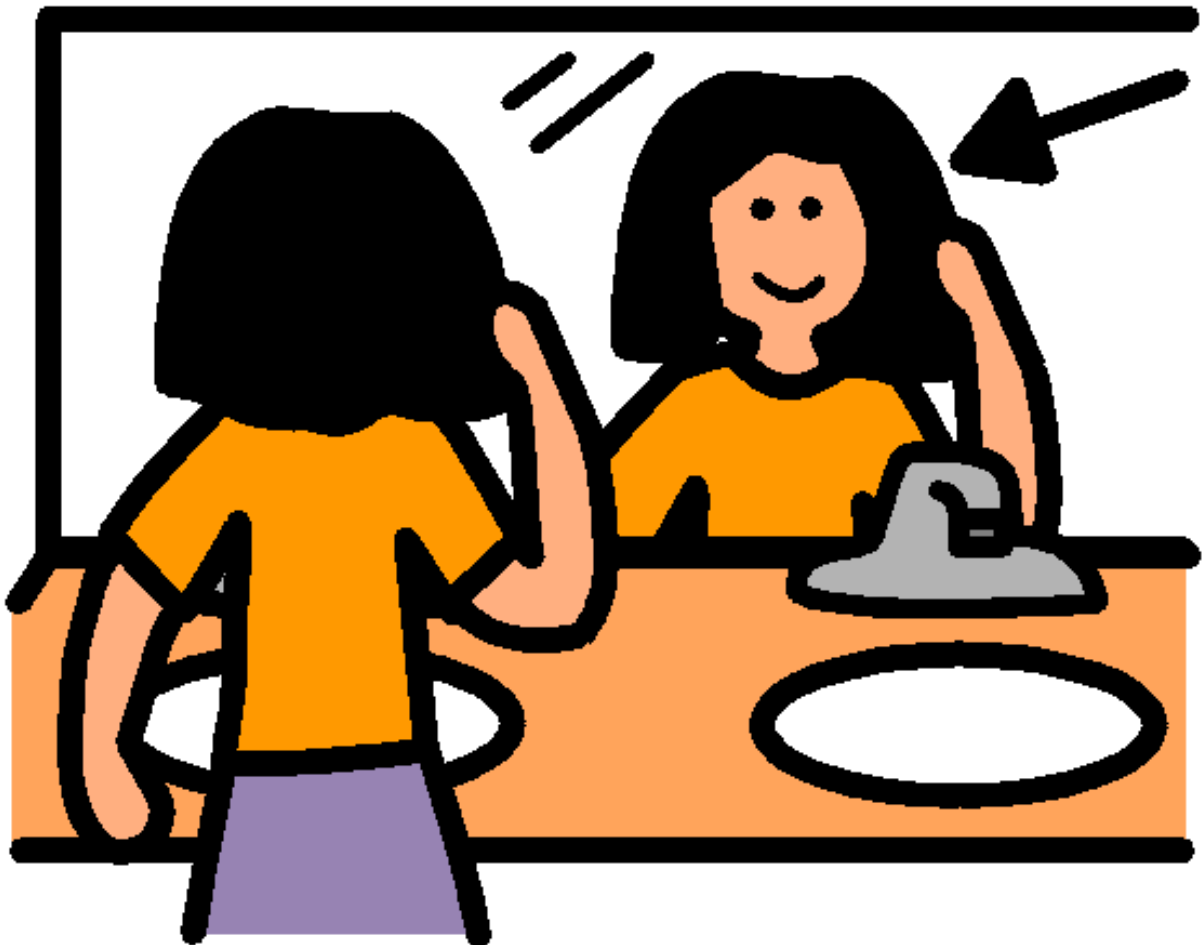
My grandmother
took me shopping
for my birthday to
buy me some new
school clothes.



I picked out
an orange shirt
with a special
laced collar.



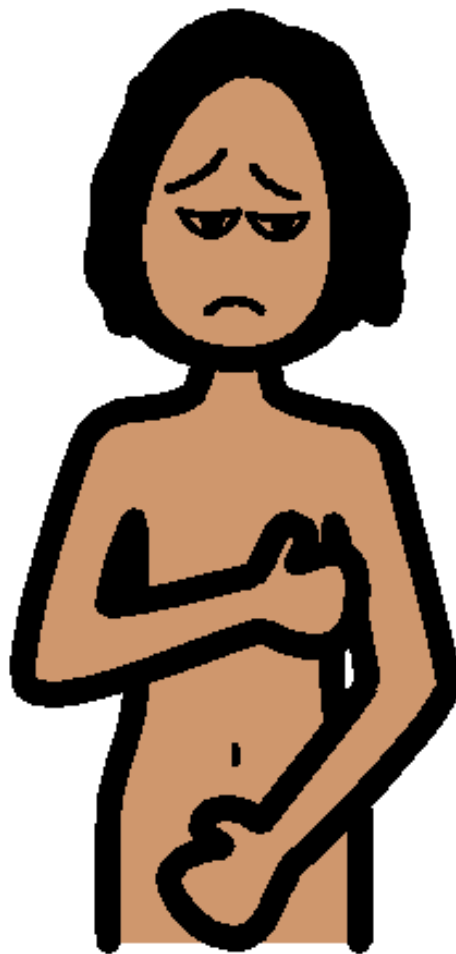
I knew I was going to look great on my first day of school!



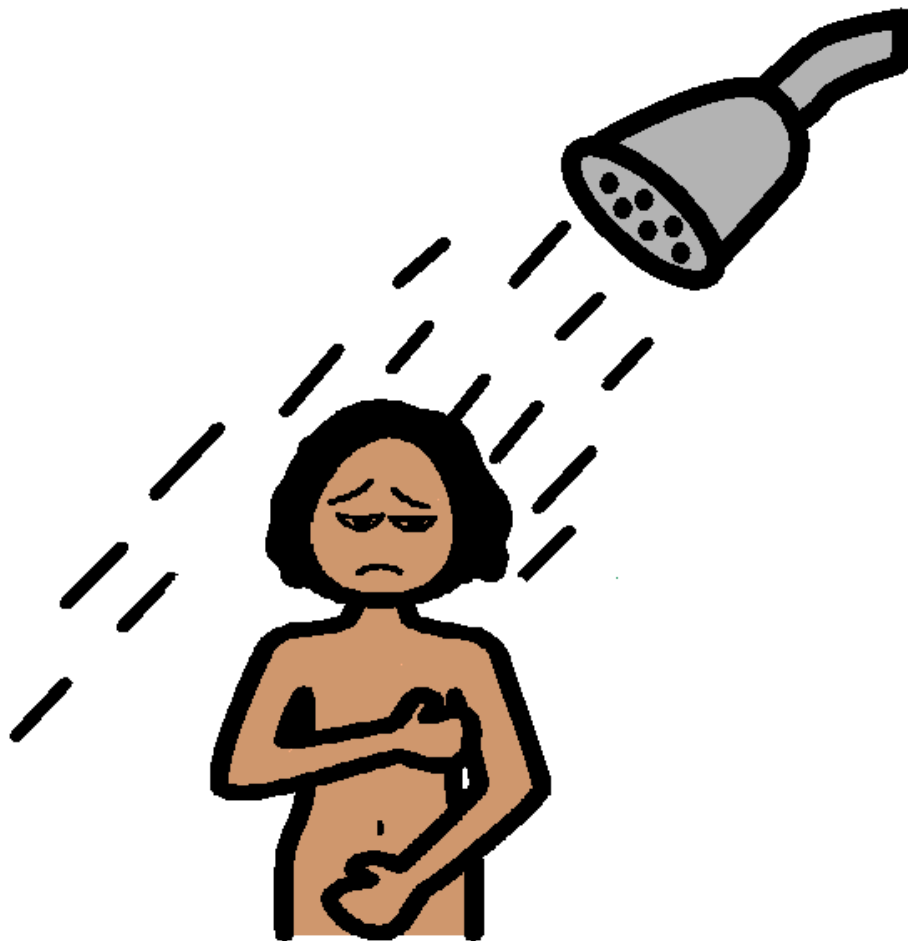
When I got to
school, the
teachers made
me take off
all my clothes.



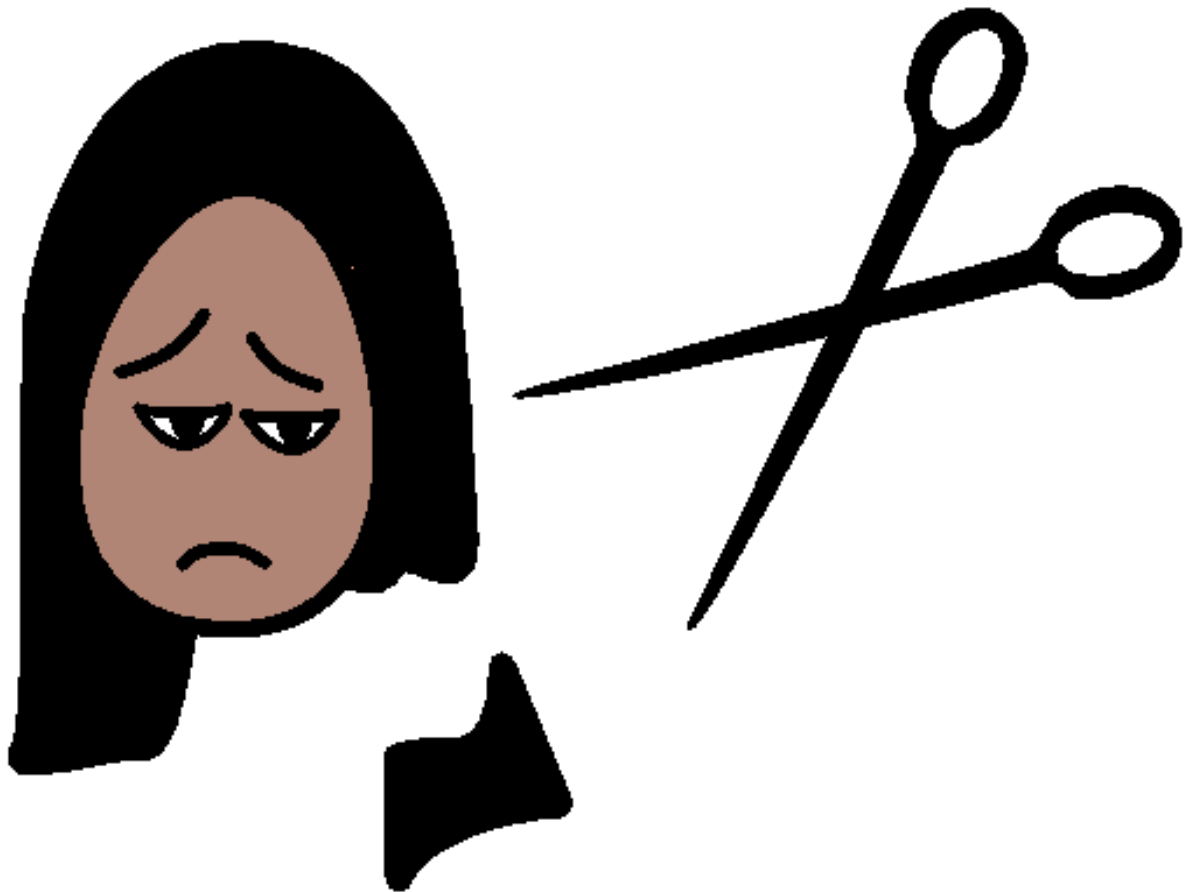
They took my shiny
orange shirt and I
never saw it again.



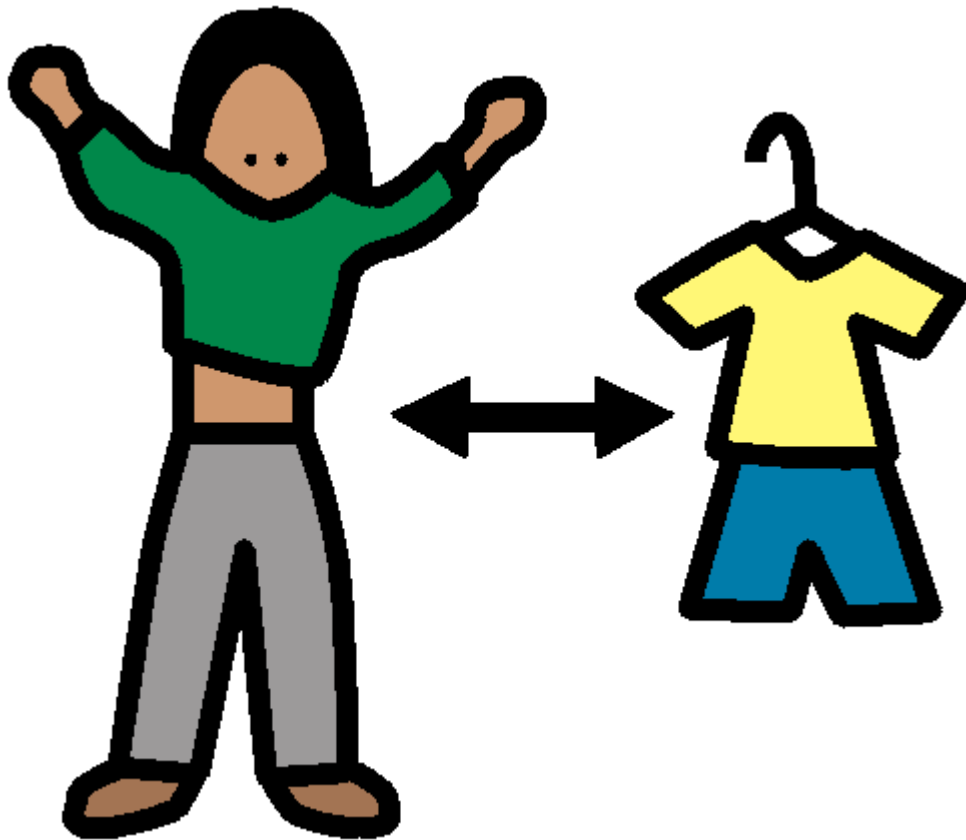
They washed me
and washed me,
even though I was
already clean.



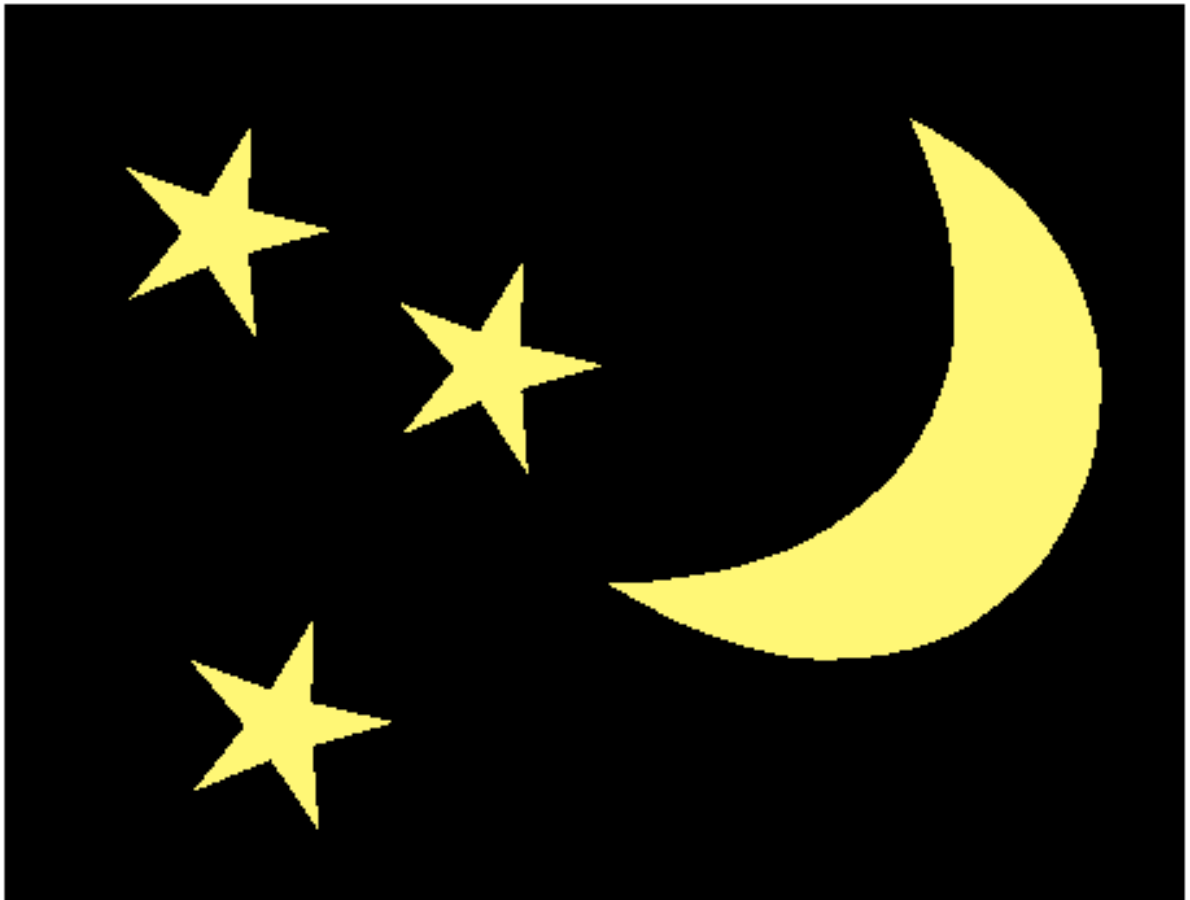
They cut my
hair. I missed
my long hair.



We had to wear
a uniform so
we all looked
the same.



I had to stay
at school,
even at night.



I slept in a room
with lots of
other children.



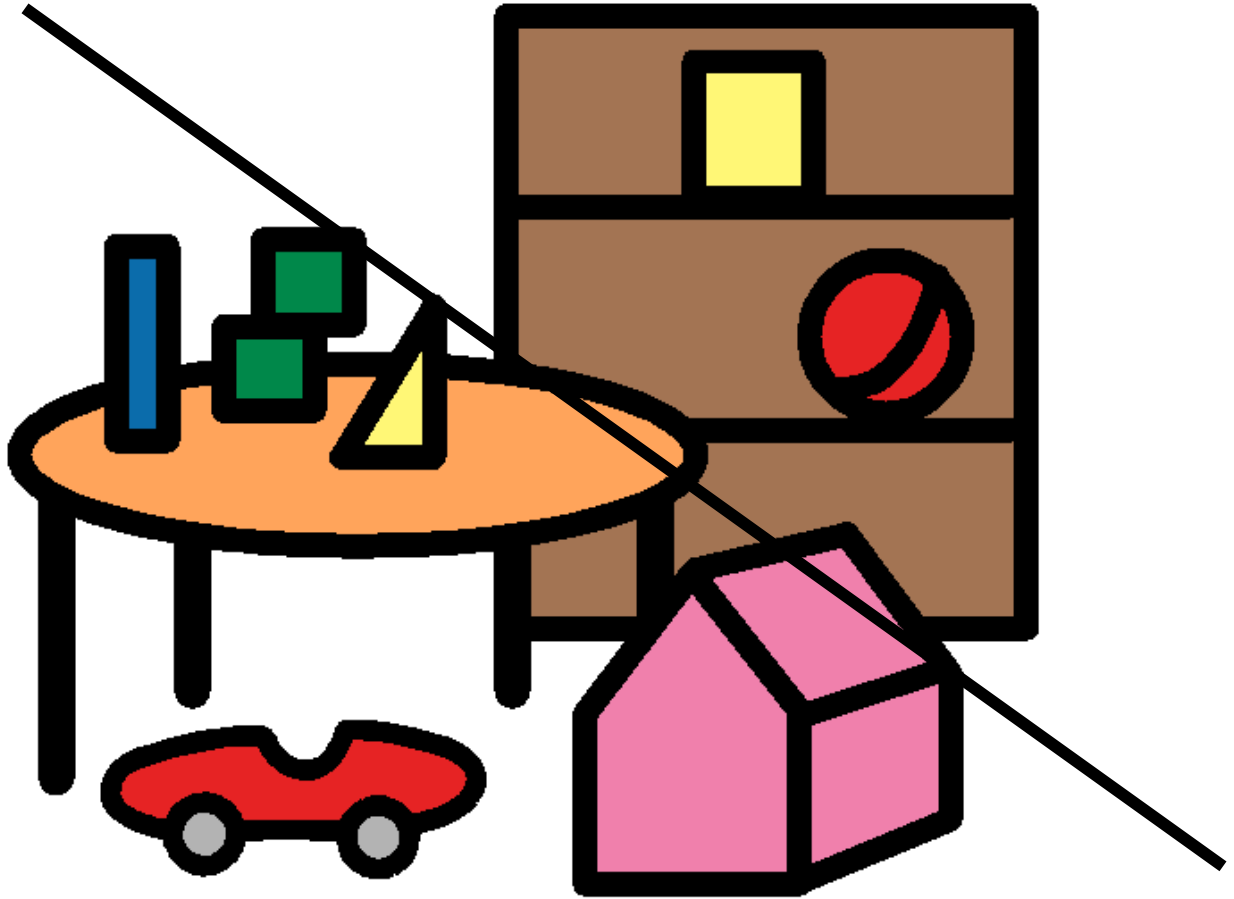
I wasn't allowed
to speak my own
language. I had to
speak English or
I would get
in trouble.



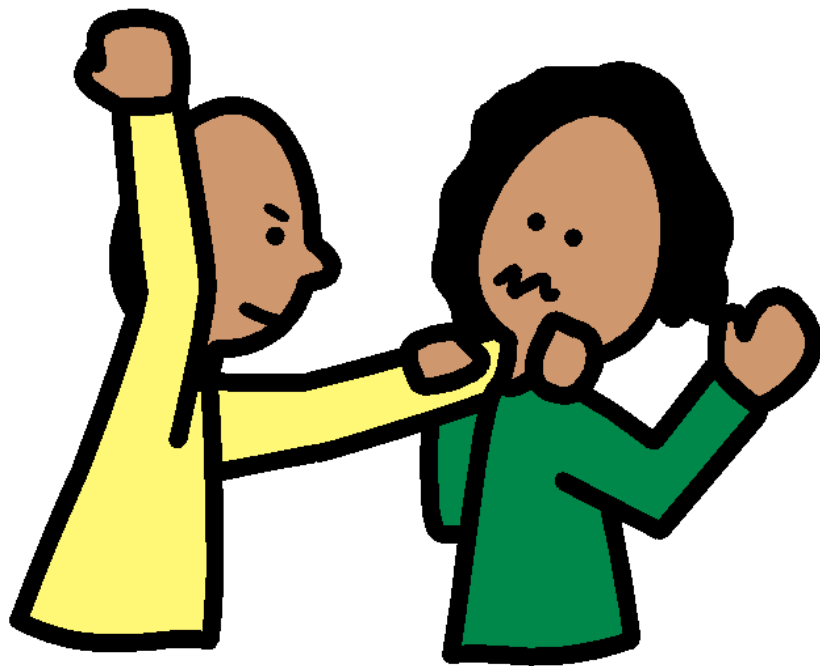
We had to do
chores every day
for many hours.



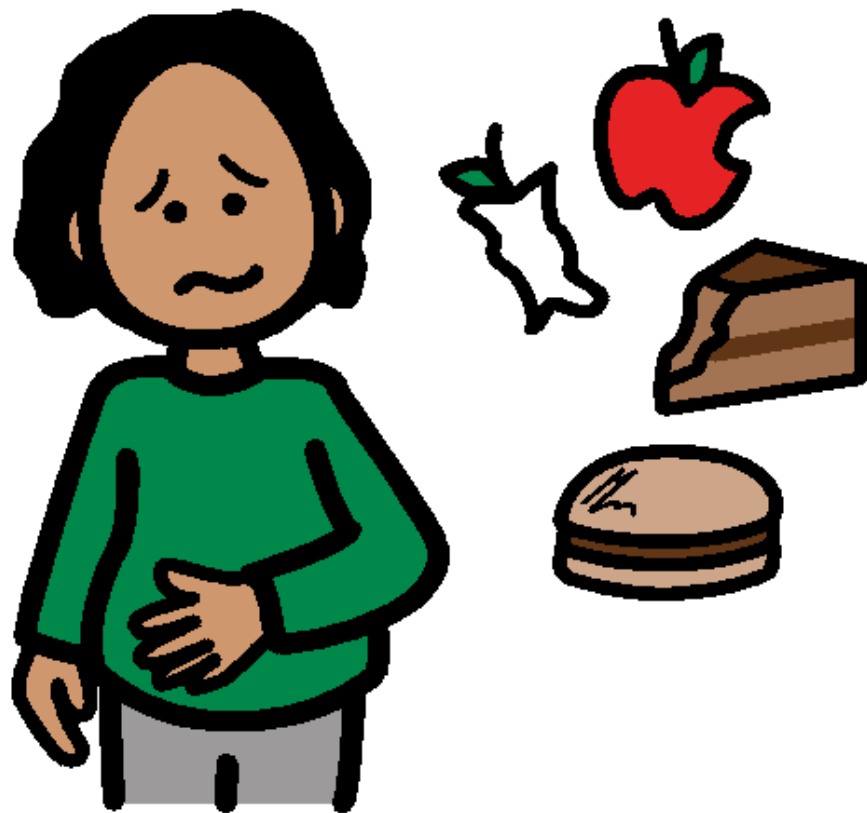
There was
no playtime.



Sometimes if I
made a mistake my
teacher would hit
me or embarrass
me in front of
the class.



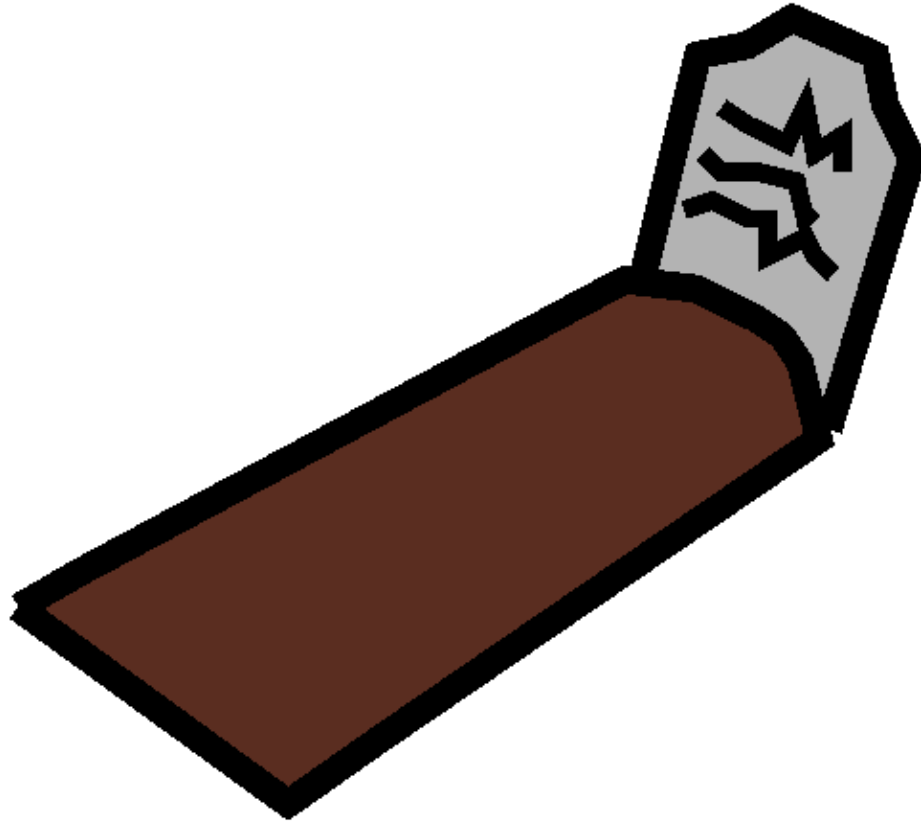
We didn't get
much to eat.
I missed my
favourite foods.



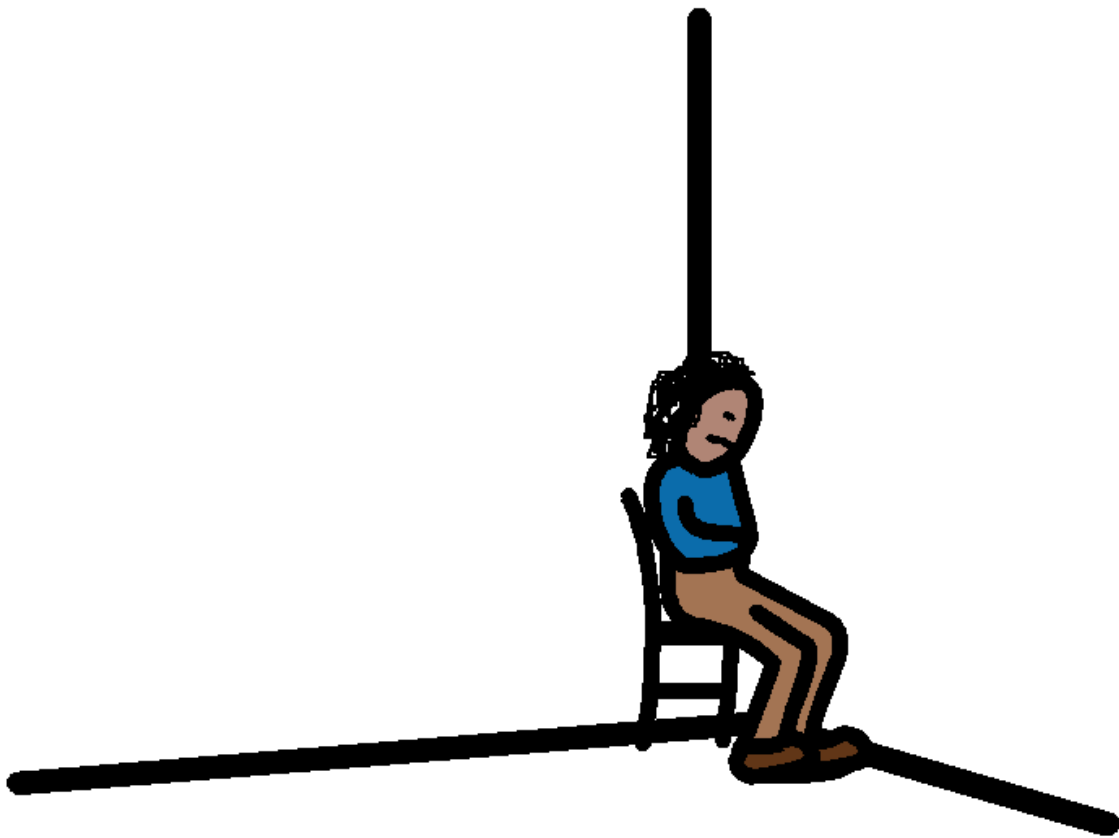
Many of my friends
got sick because
they were too
hungry, too tired,
or too sad.



Some of my friends
died at school.



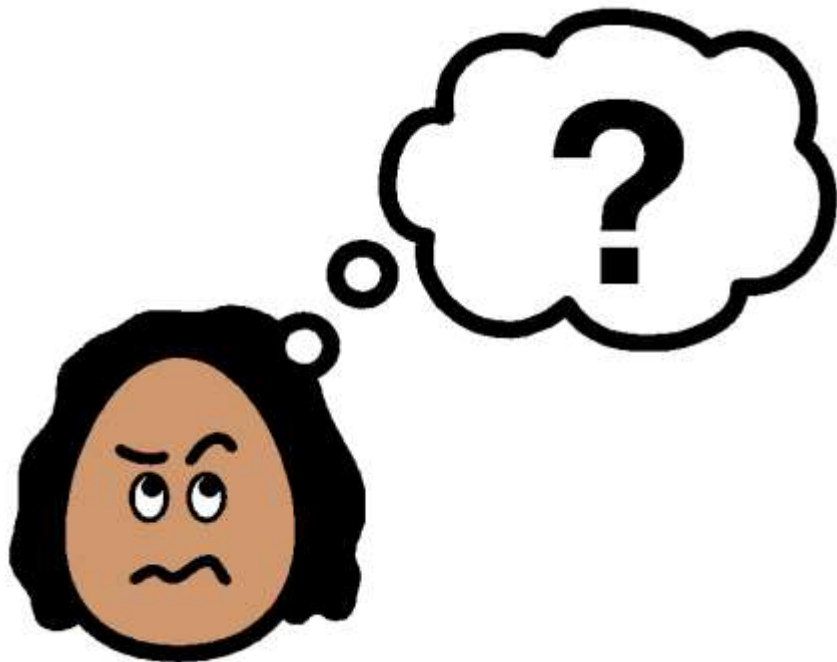
My days at school
were lonely
and difficult.



I missed my friends
and family.



When I was done school, I went back home but I couldn't remember how to speak my native language.



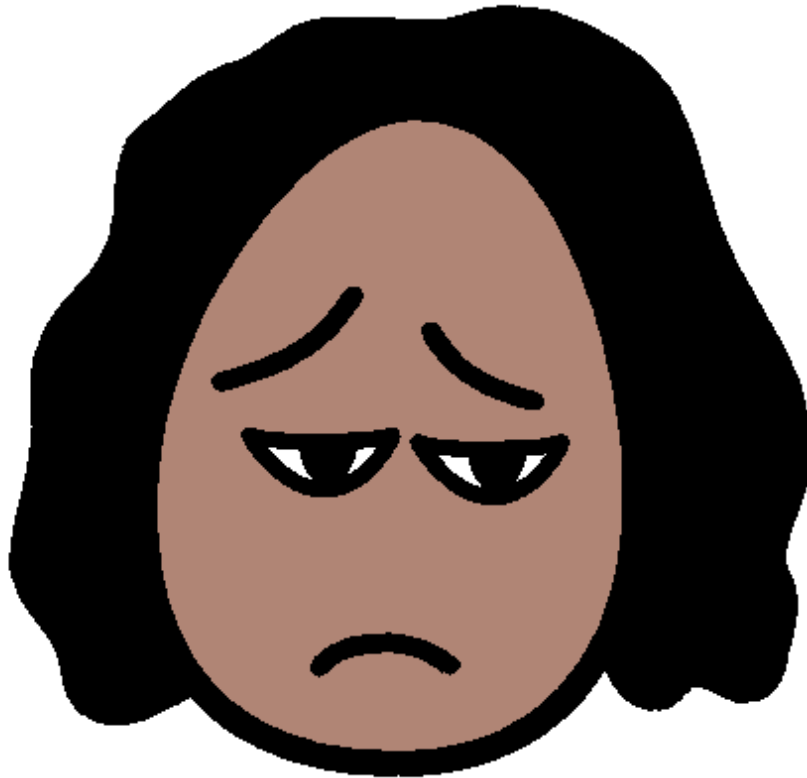
I lost my identity.



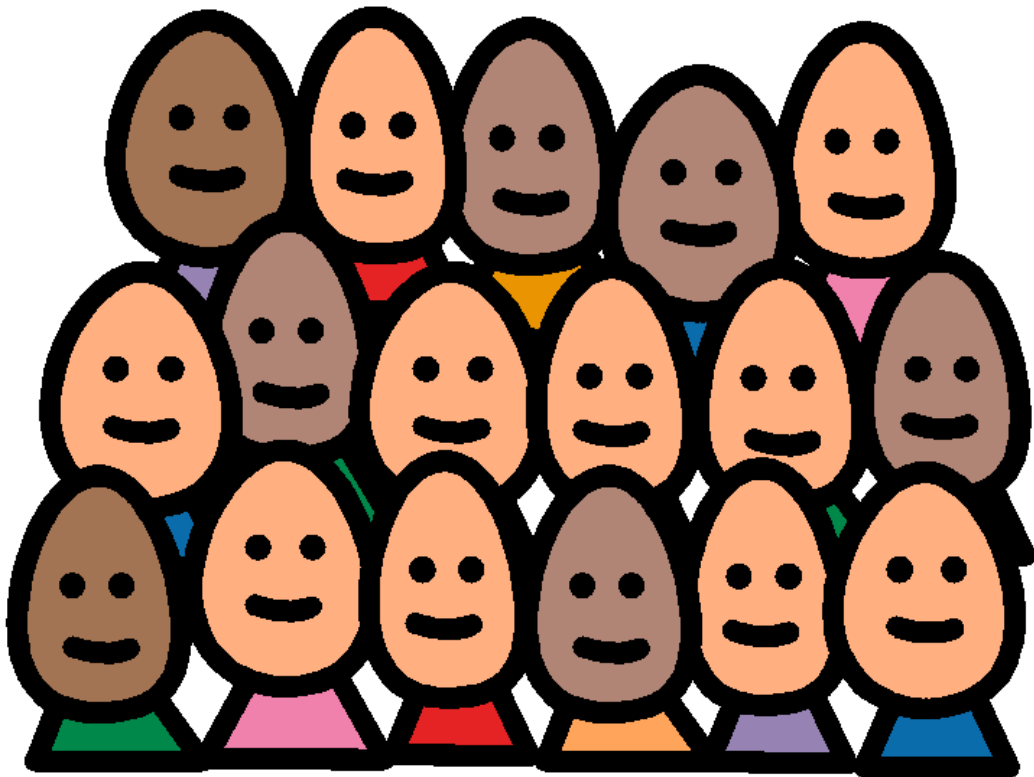
As an adult,
I sometimes
think about my
days at school.



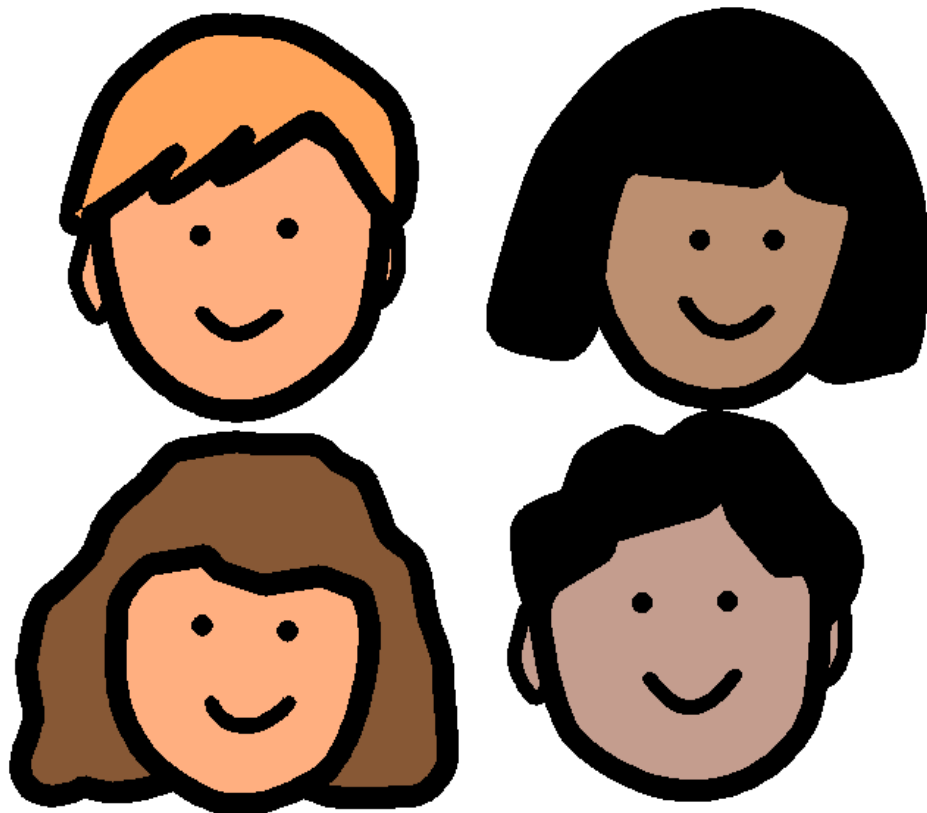
I feel sad and hurt
when I think
back on my
time at school.



I don't want any
other children
to feel like I did
at school.



Every child should
feel safe, special,
and liked for
who they are.



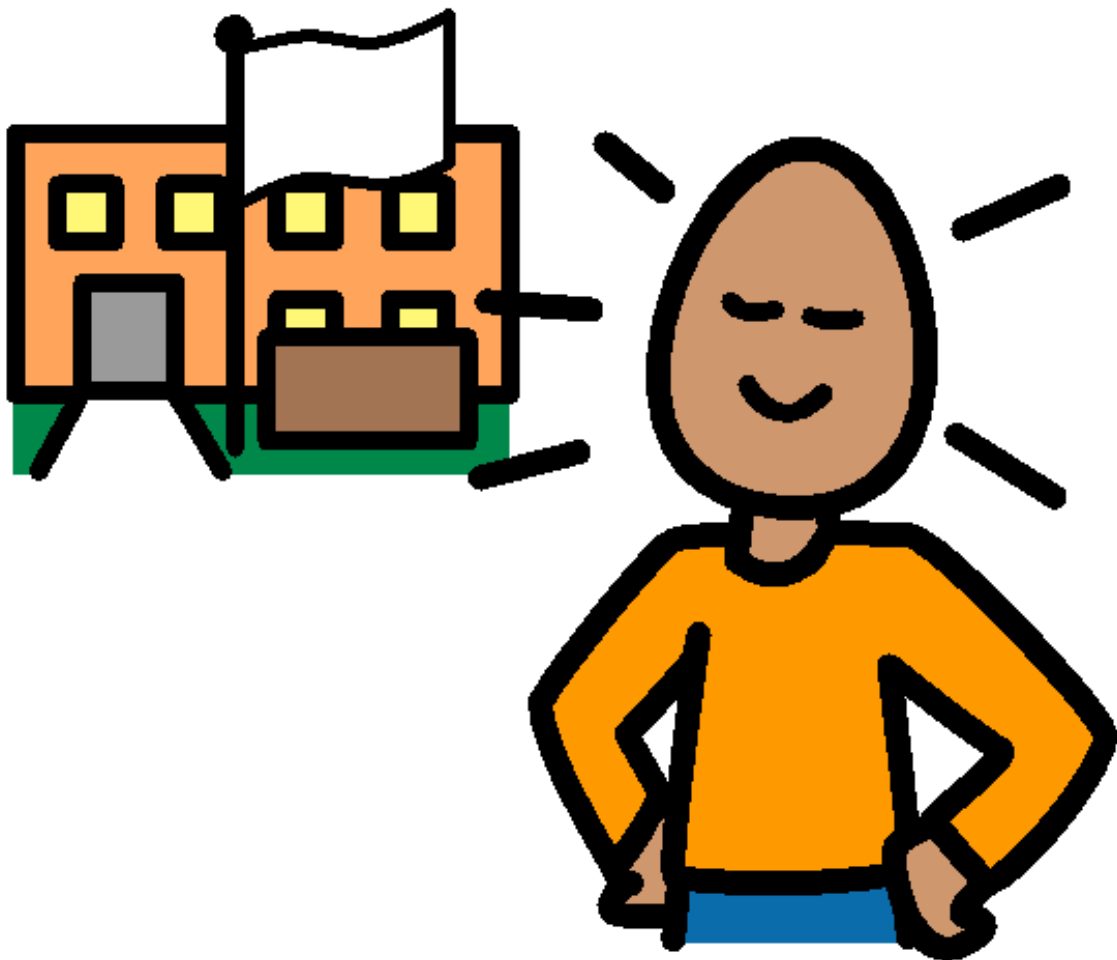
We wear orange on
Orange Shirt Day
to remember
the children
and families
that were hurt by
residential schools.



We wear orange to
remind us of the
things that make us
each special.



At school, every
child matters!



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By Heather Androsoff

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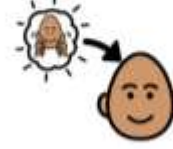
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