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Start



But Why?

Adults are always responsible for the safety of young children in and around vehicles.

"But Why?" is a story about passenger safety. It provides opportunities for children and adults to talk together about how to be a safe passenger.

This story highlights the need for children to be in the appropriate child car seat for their age and size. Children who are in the right seat for their age and size are well protected in a crash. This is because the seatbelts cross the strong bones of their skeleton and help to protect their organs from being damaged.

Key messages covered in this book which teachers and families can explore with children include:

- Always buckle up correctly for your age and size
- Always stay buckled up whether you are awake or asleep
- Always get in and out of the 'Safety Door' – the rear passenger-side door. This is usually the safest door for children to enter and exit a vehicle as it is closest to the kerb and away from traffic.

My name is Lewis and I am six years old.

This is my family. Mum, Nan, me and my little brother, Zac.

Zac just turned three.

Zac and I are good friends *(most of the time).*

He asks **SO MANY** questions!



After a busy week at school, we spend Saturdays with Nan.

She takes us out while Mum is busy at work.

Today we're going for a drive to visit Aunty Alex and cousin Lizzy!



When we get in the car through the Safety Door, Nan **ALWAYS** says, "Let's buckle up your seatbelt!" Then she checks to make sure our seatbelts fit properly.

Zac **ALWAYS** asks, "But why?"



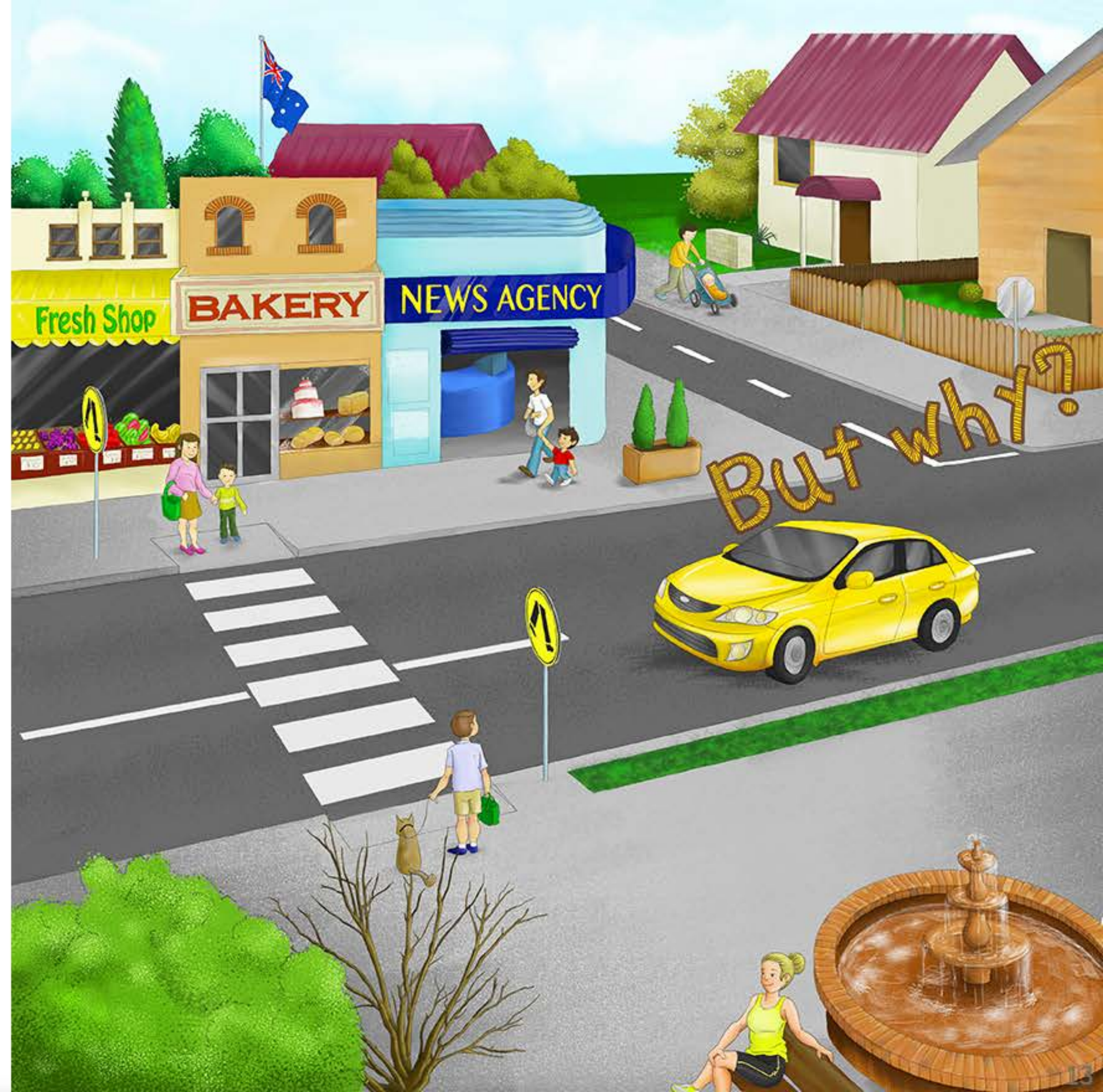
Nan says, "You know that's the rule in the car."

Zac asks, "But why?"

Nan says, "Because the seatbelt and your car seat keep you safe."

Zac asks ...

"BUT WHY?"



Then I say, "Because we all have to wear a seatbelt in the car. When you get older, you'll sit in a booster seat like me. See!"

"Yes, *but why?*" asks Zac.



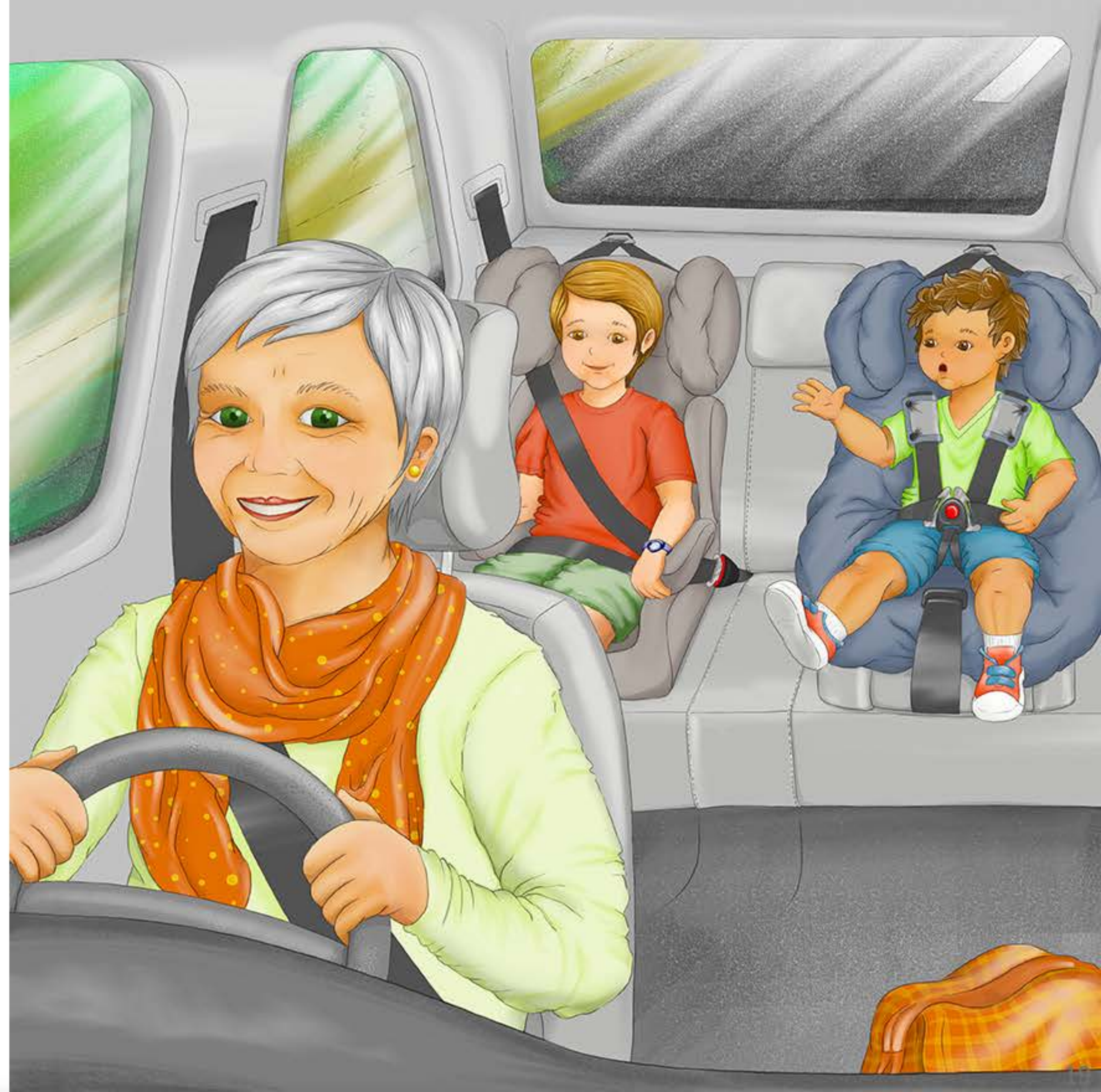
I say, “Well actually, if our car gets bumped by another car, being buckled up keeps you safe.”

“Hmmm, *but how?*” asks Zac.



Nan says, "Because your seatbelt is attached to your car seat..."

...and your car seat is attached to the car...



...the seatbelt goes over your strong hip bones and your ribs and your shoulders. It holds you in your seat safely. It's like your seatbelt is giving you a great big hug!"

"Ohhhh," says Zac. **"But why?"**



So I say, "Because your body is full of really important things."

"Like what?" asks Zac.

"Like bones and muscles and organs and veins and blood and..."

"My breakfast?" asks Zac.



“Yes, and your breakfast!

We need to keep our bodies safe so we can
run and
jump and
play and
swim and
read and
learn and **TALK!**”



“And how about **SLEEP** as well!” says Nan.





Then Nan says, “Come on Zac, I’ll unbuckle your seatbelt now.”

“Yawwwnnnn... *but why?*” asks Zac.



We all say, "Because we are here!"

Zac says, "I knew that!"

