

A place called home

Guide: for the words in bold:

- **'Sad'** – ask everyone to put their heads down and whisper “Boo Hoo”
- **'Play'** – ask everyone to jump up to their feet and skip on the spot. If your group is small you could hand out skipping ropes.
- **'Smile'** – hold up a smile sign or printed emoticon and ask the children to give big smiles and shout “hurray!”. For smaller groups you could hand out signs to each child.



This is a story about a little girl called Bernadette.

Bernadette is four years old and lives in Africa, in a place called Central African Republic.

When she was very small a terrible thing happened. Men with guns came to her house and made everyone run away. She was very frightened and was so glad that her big sister held her as they ran into the forest.

For a long time Bernadette was very **sad**. She didn't have anywhere to call home, and she didn't have anywhere to **play**. She wanted to see her Mum **smile** again.

But most of all, she wanted to go home. She was very **sad**.

Bernadette and her family were soon able to stay at a camp with lots of other people. They had to hide under tents and there was no water, and nowhere to go to the toilet. The smell was terrible! Bernadette was very sick because of the dirty water and the lack of toilets. That made her **sad**.

Then one day a group of kind people came to visit and built brand new toilets and made the water from the local stream safe to drink. The kind people also taught Bernadette and her friends how to wash their hands so that they would stay healthy. Bernadette had a big **smile** on her face – she was so happy! She ran to say thank you to the kind people. She ran to find her sisters so that they could **play**. Bernadette noticed that her Mum had a big **smile** too.

Now the camp feels a little bit like home. Bernadette has lots of friends and they **play** every day.

It is a place with clean water and new toilets. It is a place where they can wash their hands. It's a place where families care for each other.

And it is a place with lots of **smiles**.

THE END