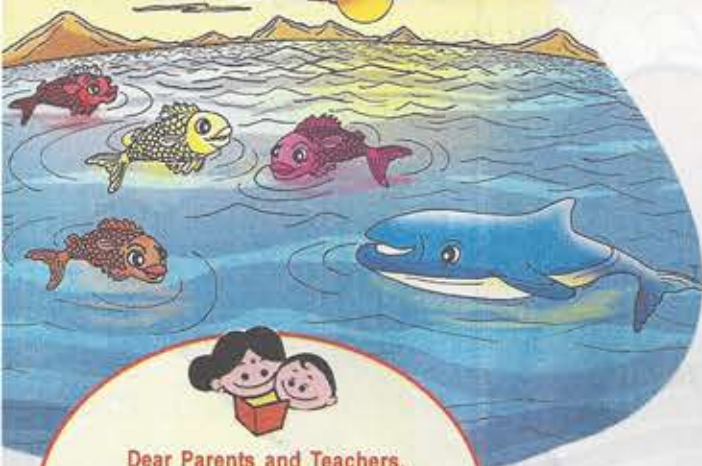


The Tug-of-War

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Dear Parents and Teachers,
Read out this story to the little ones with suitable gestures and voice modulation so that they listen to you with rapt attention.

-Editor

Once a school of fish were playing 'run and catch'. A little whale calf was watching them and he too wanted to play. So he went up to the fish and asked, "Can I too play?"

"Okay," agreed the fish. "We will swim and you catch us!"

The whale calf was very happy. He chased the little fish and caught all of them in a jiffy!

The fish were disappointed, "We don't want to play with you. You swim too fast" they said and stood away.

The little whale calf was unhappy. He sat thinking for a minute and then said brightly, "I know, we shall all play jump and splash!"

The little fish agreed. They too loved 'jump and splash'. So all of them stood in a circle and jumped. But the whale calf jumped



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up high and splashed with a big thud! All the little fish got scattered.

"We don't play with you," said the angry little fish. "You splash too hard."

The whale calf was sad. He thought for a while and said timidly, "Shall we play 'tug-of-war'?"

"Yes!" shouted the little fish excitedly, "You pull on one side and we will all pull on the other side."

So they found a rope and started to play. The little fish tugged hard but the whale calf pulled all the little fish to his side in a second. But this time the fish were happy. They rolled on the ocean bed and laughed. "Let's play again!" they shouted, "Let's play again."

So they all played till it was dark and they were covered in thick dirt. And when it was time to leave, they swam towards their homes happily! ●

