

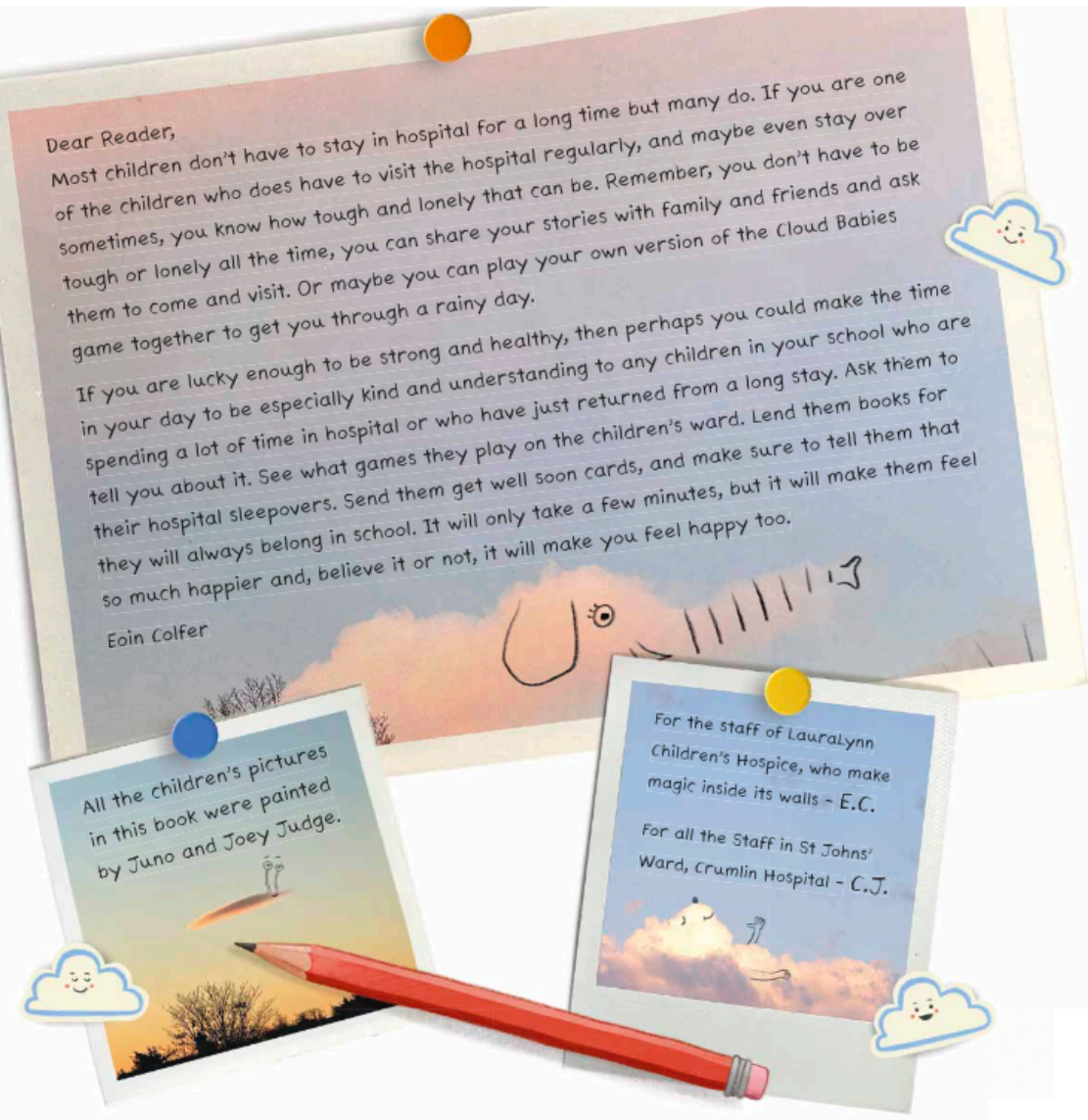
CLOUD BABIES

Sometimes, All We Need
To Do Is Look Up

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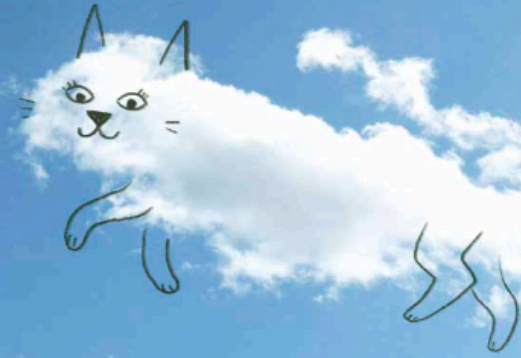
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Erin's very first word was CAT.
"Did you say 'cat', honey?" said Dad.
"I don't see a cat."



But then Dad looked up and he saw it, too – a CAT!
"Your very own cloud baby," said Dad.



From then on, Erin was always looking towards the sky, searching for her cloud babies. "It's a snappy-happy crocodile!" she would shout.



"It's a naughty cat!" said Lucy, joining in.

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Erin found all kinds of marvellous and wondrous cloud babies:

A dragon who had run out of puff,



a fox who was late for school



and a polar bear who made snowballs.



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One day, Erin felt unwell. She didn't look to the sky, not once. She'd been poorly before ... but this felt more serious.



Mum and Dad were worried.



Erin would need to spend some time in the children's hospital.



The children's ward was a whole new world, with beds that buzzed and machines that beeped.



Everyone made Erin feel welcome and safe.



She even made eleven new friends on her first day.

Best of all, Erin had her very own team to look after her:



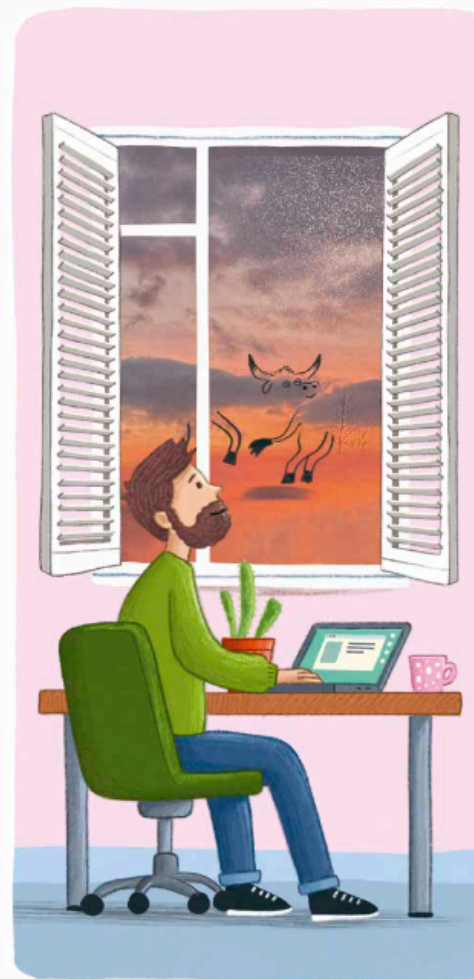
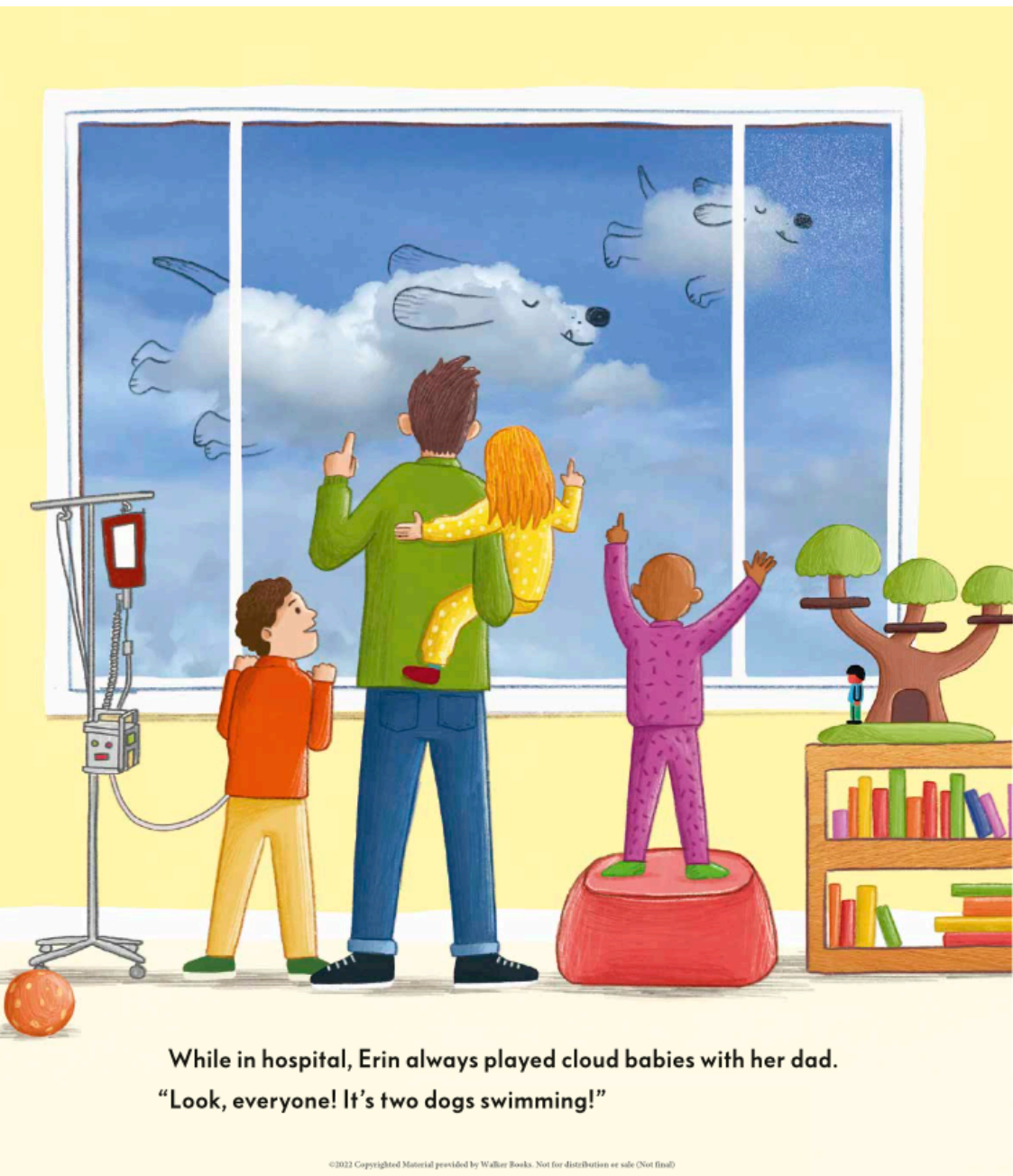
A doctor called Bernadette, who loved ballroom dancing,



Albert, who delivered her extra special meals and was also the hospital DJ,



and lots of wonderful nurses, including Sarika who gave out sparkly unicorn stickers.



And whenever Dad couldn't be there next to her, they still found ways to play.



To be together, all they had to do was ... look up.

Erin was in hospital for a long time.
She missed six turns at taking Florence the class gerbil home.
(Though, Mum really didn't mind because Florence pooped a lot.)



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Then one day Dr Bernadette told Erin that while there would still be "hospital days", she didn't have to stay in the hospital any more.
Erin was well enough to finally go home.

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Erin was excited about going back to school.
But she was also a little nervous.



Everyone had grown so tall.
She had only grown half an inch.

When her teacher, Ms Rose, asked Erin to share a story about the hospital, she told the class about her cloud babies – the fox who was late for school and the dragon with no puff.
“Cloud babies are magical,” said Erin. “They make people feel better.”

