

Riding a Bike

'Happy Birthday Erin' her family shouted.

It was Erin's sixth birthday and she was so excited to be a whole year older. She was already having the best day ever, but Erin still had one more present to open and she knew it was going to be the best one yet.

This present was taller than her, longer than her and had two wheels. What could it be?

'It's a bike!' cried Erin. Pulling off the wrapping paper, Erin revealed a beautiful green bike with a brown basket and a little silver bell on the handle. Erin was so excited, she didn't know how to ride a bike yet but she was grinning from ear to ear just thinking about learning.

Dad showed Erin how to sit on her bike, how to pedal her bike, how to press her brakes and how to ring her bell. 'This will be easy' Erin thought. She put on her helmet, sat down on the bike, took her feet off the ground and.... Fell over.

'Why can't I do it Dad?' she asked. 'Nobody gets it on their first try' he reassured her as he picked her up off the ground. 'It'll be worth it, I promise.'

So Erin tried again, and again, and again, but nothing worked. She pedalled too fast, then she pedalled too slow. She braked too hard and then she didn't brake enough. She tried everything but it always ended the same; with Erin on the ground, having fallen off her bike. It was not as easy as she had thought it would be. After lots of scraped knees and bruises, Erin started to cry. 'I'll never ride a bike'

Erin's dad gave her a big hug. 'Hey, it took me a whole week to learn to ride a bike. It will take time Erin but the most important thing is that you learn from your mistakes, keep trying and have fun.' he said.

On the second day, Erin went outside with her bike and tried again. She fell off her bike three times that day.

On the third day, Erin bruised her elbow.

On the fourth day, Erin scraped her knee.

On the fifth day, Erin was scared to lift her feet from the ground because she was sure she'd fall off her bike all over again.

'You have to keep trying' her dad said. 'Imagine how happy you'll be when you can go on bike rides with your friends!'

'If I don't get it, I'll try again,' she thought to herself 'and again and again and again until I do get it. I'll try a thousand times before I give up.'

But Erin didn't need a thousand more tries. As she took her feet off the ground and started pedalling, she didn't fall. She cycled. And it was the most fun Erin had ever had.

'I'm doing it. I'm doing it. Look at me go Dad– I can ride a bike!' Erin yelled, as she cycled and cycled and cycled.

Erin's dad smiled 'I knew you could do it. You just had to keep trying!'