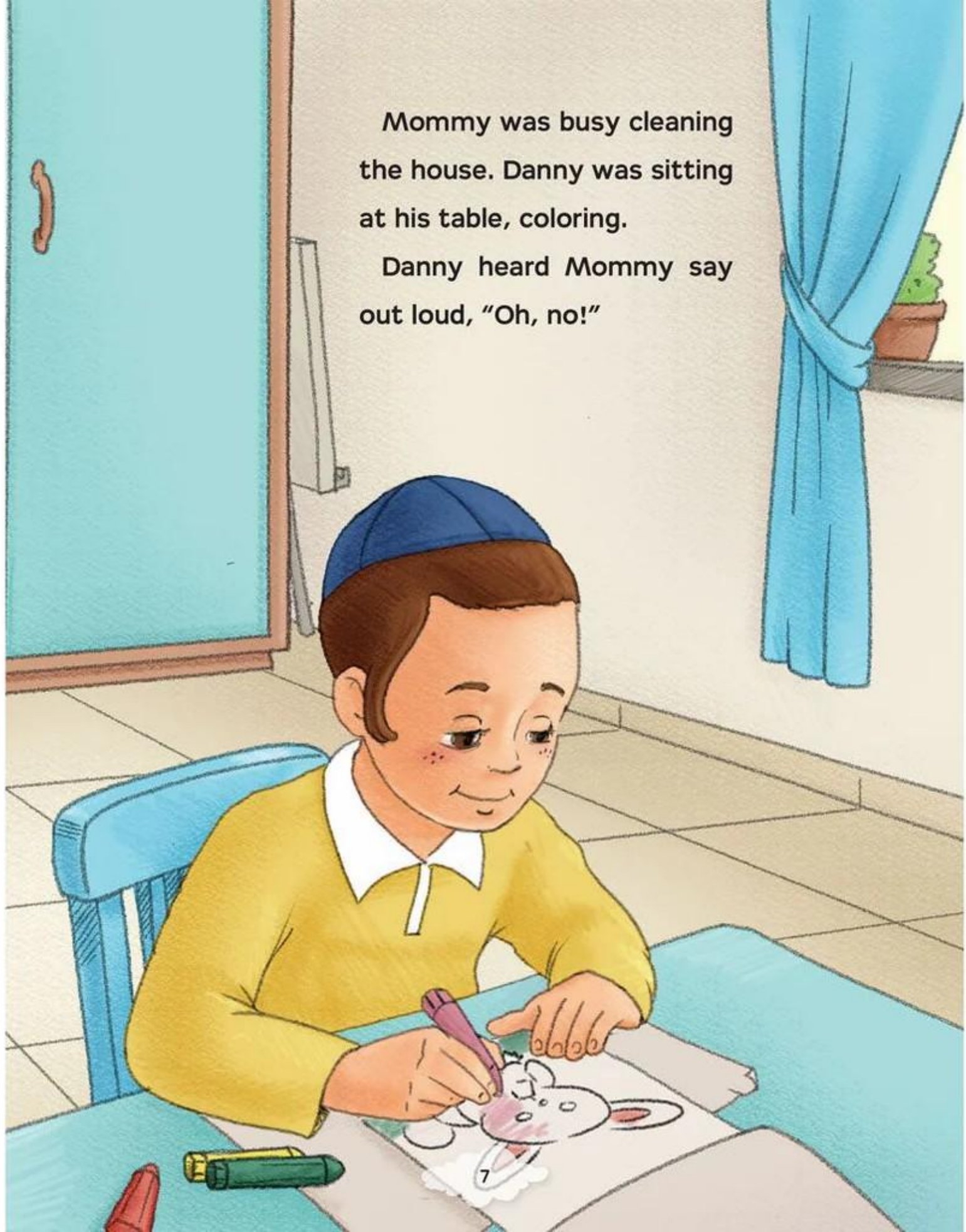




Mommy was busy cleaning the house. Danny was sitting at his table, coloring.

Danny heard Mommy say out loud, "Oh, no!"



Danny put his crayon down and walked into the next room.

"What happened, Mommy?" he asked. "Why are you upset?"

Mommy bent down and picked up a broom.

"This broom is broken," she said. "How can I clean the house for Shabbos with a broken broom?"

Danny thought. Then he stood up very tall and straight. "I'm a big boy already," he said. "I can go to the store down the block and buy a new broom. Please, Mommy, will you let me go? I promise to be very careful! I'll hold the money very carefully and I'll walk only on the sidewalk. And I'll buy the best broom in the store!"

Mommy put the broken broom down and gave Danny a hug. "Oh, Danny," she said. "That's so sweet of you. But the store is all the way down the block, and our block is very long. I'm afraid it's too far for you to go alone."



"Please, Mommy," Danny pleaded. "I'll walk straight down the block to the store. I won't talk to any strangers. I won't chase any butterflies or do anything else. I'll just walk to the store and come right back! Please, can I go?"

Mommy thought for a moment. *Danny is a responsible boy. But is he old enough to go to the store by himself? And can he carry the new broom all the way back home?*

Finally, Mommy said, "Okay, Danny. Here's the wallet with the money. Hold it tight and make sure not to lose it."

"Don't worry, Mommy. I'll be very responsible," promised Danny. "I'm a big boy already!"



