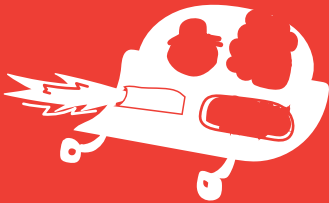


READ IT!!!
~~HANDS OFF!~~

Paul's diary
2017

**TIME TO
TALK!**

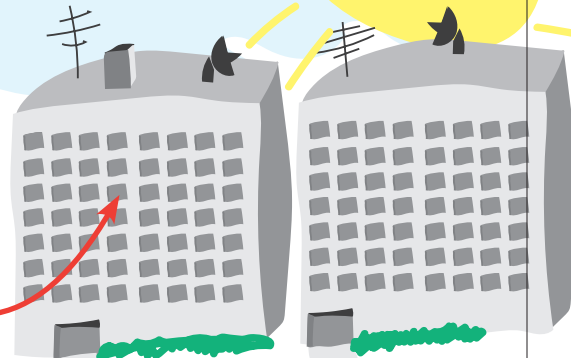
[#talkaboutchildwork](#)



1st May

Dear diary! We've finally moved into the city, just Mum, Trixi and me. Now everything's going to be better.

My room (check out the view!)



2nd May

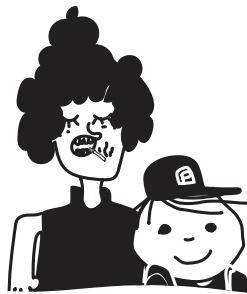
Dear diary, today I went on a discovery tour with Trixi. The estate is way too big to go walk the dog on foot. Took Mum's bike. The seat is too high, but it has a little basket for Trixi.



3rd May

Dear diary. Today was my first day at the new school and I got to play football during the break. Three goals! In Arts class Mrs Storm said my picture was really great and showed it to everyone. So embarrassing! Whether I love Amy Winehouse. Any who?

Found a frame for Mum's picture. 49 euros!! Five months' pocket money! Are they nuts? It is silver though. So classy



Draw a picture as a birthday present for Mum... maybe like this? Maybe with a frame?

4th May

Dear diary! Our Politics teacher is so cool! Her name is Maia. We're her first class and she's really nice. Today we learned about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It's a type of law book that all countries have to stick to. My three favourite articles from it are:

*Tell Mum!

Article 12: All children have the right to their own opinions and adults have to 'listen to us' and take us seriously.

Article 17: Phones, computers, TVs are all allowed for children, so we can figure out what we need to know for a good life.

Article 37: It is FORBIDDEN to punish children!

*That means phone bans are BANNED, yeah!

Child work also gets a mention. It happens all over the world, says Maia. Instead of going to school, lots of children work really hard for little or no money, and are also treated badly. Soon there's going to be a conference in Argentina, where they're going to advise how to protect these children better, but children aren't invited though! Can you believe it?



6th May

Dear Diary!
A boy is spreading flyers in the neighbourhood. I wondered how I can get that job, too. He says I am too young, but this weekend I can help him out. He will share his wages with me. I will get 30 euros! With my savings included this is enough for the frame for my mum's birthday!



7th May

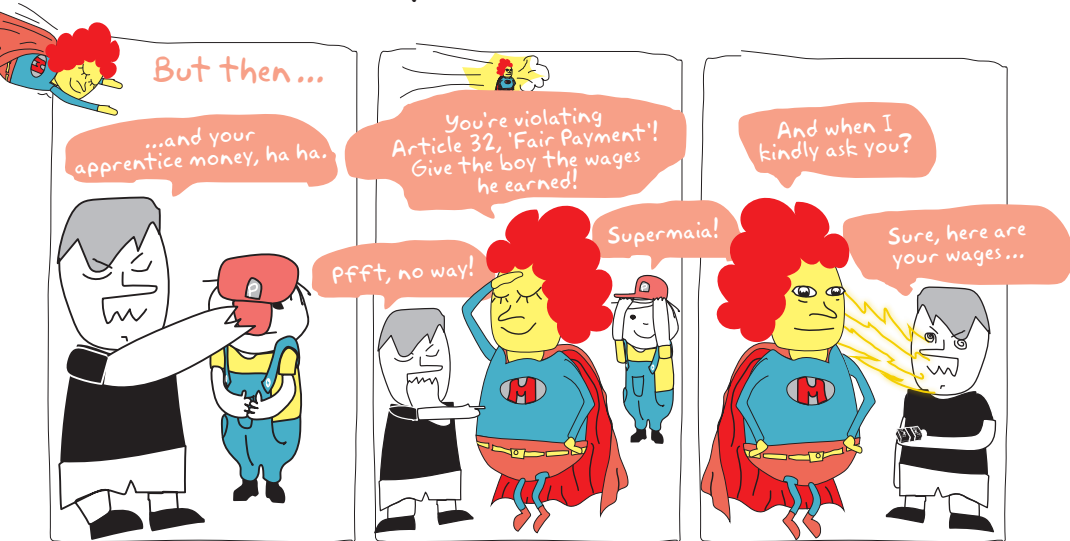
Dear diary, from today on I am a working child, too! Straight after school, the boy gave me the trolley and a plan. I managed to do nearly all the neighbourhood. 13 houses, 312 letterboxes. One of them bit my hand.

8th May

7 hours, 295 houses. Only 825 letterboxes, and it was raining! I'm exhausted. Mum thinks I was playing football. I should stay in bed tomorrow, she said.

9th May

Dear diary, got up early and took Trixi with me so she wouldn't bark and wake Mum up. 3 hours for the last 500 flyers. 100 of them I dumped in the recycling, otherwise I'd never have finished. I gave the boy the trolley back, but he gave me only 15 euros and said, "The other 15 euros are my commission..." Traitor!

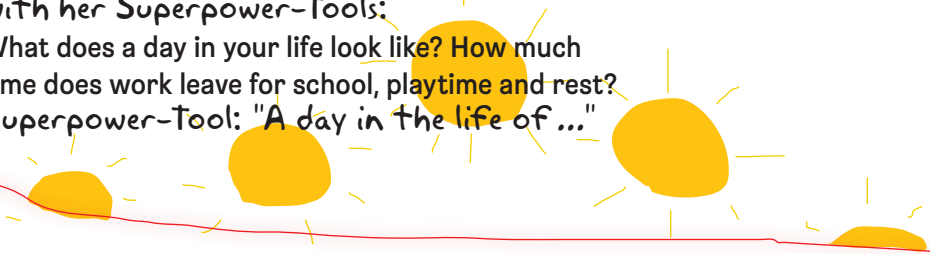


Supermaia was busy on behalf of all working children in the world, as she explained. She wanted to meet as many as possible of them and find out what work they do, and why and how they do it.

She wants to get answers to important questions with her Superpower-Tools:

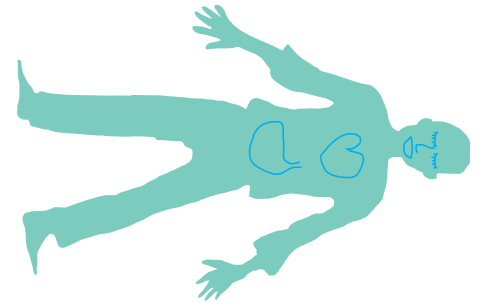
What does a day in your life look like? How much time does work leave for school, playtime and rest?

Superpower-Tool: "A day in the life of ..."



What do you like about your job, what don't you like?

Superpower-Tool: Body Mapping



Who should do what to make your life better?

Superpower-Tool: Flower of Support

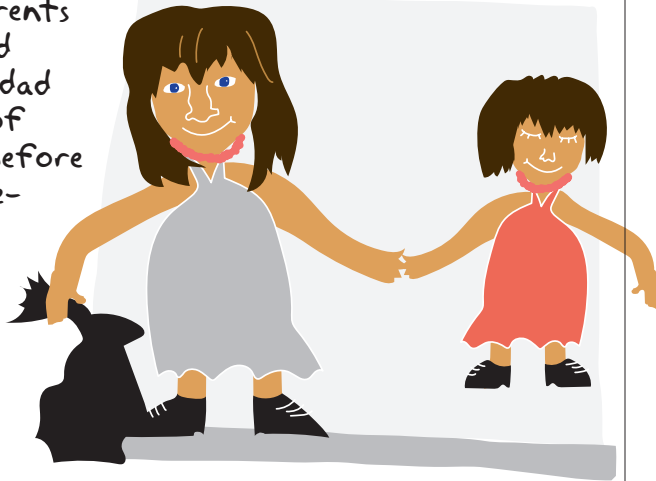
"I use this information to make a report for the World Conference on Child Labour, and will personally bring it to Argentina. This means as many important people as possible will hear what working children say! "That's great," I said. And then she asked me if I wanted to help her. She needed someone to write everything down. "Sure!", I said, and Trixi wagged her tail. Supermaia jumped for joy.

It's Time to Talk!



With Maia's Superautomobile, we were in South America in no time at all. There we met working children from seven countries.

Maria was one of them. She's 13 years old and lives with her parents and five younger brothers and sisters in a village in Peru. Her dad is ill and can't work. Because of this, Maria has to help out; before school, she has to do the housework, and after school, she works as a waste collector. On Saturdays all day long! The family can buy rice and beans with her wages



— Other children gave us other reasons why they work. These came up the most: —

- * Parents / family need help
- * Family is poor, or has other problems
- * They want to be able to buy things, or be more independent
- * They can pay the school fee
- * They enjoy working
- * It's an opportunity to learn something
- * They have a desire for a better future



Paul's diary



The children in eight countries in Asia were also happy to tell us about their working lives. Like Banju from India. He is 15 and lives with his grandmother and grandfather. His parents moved to the city to find work. Banju helps his grandmother in the morning. After school and on Saturdays, he works in a garage. He gets paid very little, but learns a lot about cars. He enjoys it because he wants to become a proper mechanic one day, his dream job!

Banju enjoys earning his own money as well. So he can go out with his friends.



— Most children enjoy their work when... —

- * people treat them with kindness and respect
- * people praise them for their work and let them take responsibility
- * they can be proud of their work
- * they earn an income from it
- * it gives them useful life knowledge and skills
- * they can help their families and be close to them
- * friends and adults support them and take care of them.

However, there are some things that children don't like about their work.

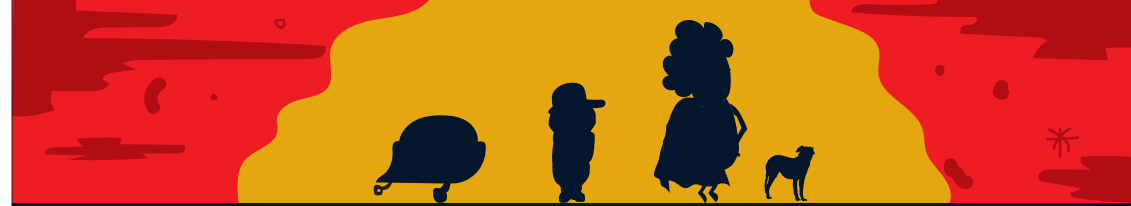


Dasha from Kyrgyzstan doesn't like being told off or shouted at, or even worse. Dasha is 12 and lives with her mother and brother in the city. She goes to school in the morning, and sells things in the streets in the afternoon. She meets her friends on the streets. They work as well. Dasha needs money for pens, textbooks and school books. The work is stressful; she walks everywhere by foot and always has to carry her goods, but Dasha is also proud of herself. Because it means her mother doesn't have to earn money alone.



— Whatever the children do, wherever they work, they like these things the least about work: —

- ☑ Scolding, shouting, beatings
- ☑ Injuries, accidents
- ☑ A bad workplace, heavy physical tasks, too many decisions to make, pressure from above, too few breaks, too little money
- ☑ Work is frustrating: lots of effort, little reward
- ☑ Tiredness
- ☑ People think badly of them
- ☑ Working alone
- ☑ No time for their studies



Kenya was the 11th station on our journey through the huge continent of Africa. We met so many children, but every single one of them could say which work is okay for a child and which is not. Dario (11) lives with his two older brothers and one sister in a small hut in a village. Every morning he feeds the sheep of the family. Then he walks to school. On foot! But it is not far away. He is proud to be a student. On his way home he collects firewood for his mom. In the afternoon he starts with his homework. Then he plays with his friends until dinner. "The work is totally fine, because it is easy to do. And I do have enough time to play with my friends", he told us.

— We asked children about working — conditions that make their work 'OK' for them. These were the most common answers:

- ☑ Easy to deal with
- ☑ Safe and secure
- ☑ At home or near home
- ☑ With help from family / adults
- ☑ Doesn't get in the way of learning / going to school
- ☑ Enough time to rest and play

— Is it the same for boys and girls? —



The children don't think so! There are differences that the girls are 'OK' with though, like cooking, washing the dishes, fetching water, looking after brothers and sisters, mending, sewing and cutting hair. The boys mainly mentioned: helping in the field, on a stall or doing gardening, DIY and repair work.



Dario seemed happy with his work. Farida instead told us a different story. Her family escaped to Jordan, from the war in Syria. Her parents have difficulties to find a job. Refugees are not allowed to work. However, refugee children are given jobs, although it is forbidden. As they're cheaper than adult workers and can escape more quickly during inspections. Farida is 15 and the oldest daughter. So she helps her family. "I work six days a week on a farm and pick tomatoes. My eyes always hurt because of the pesticides. And the sun burns my skin," Farida says. She is very sad because she can't go to school here, and has no time to play with her friends.



We visited 36 countries and met 1822 children. They all work in many different ways. For many of them, this is a good thing. They are appreciated, learn something on the job and can be proud of themselves. For so many others though, the bad outweighs the good. There are reasons for whether the work is good or bad.

*There are protection factors!
The child ...*

*And risk factors!
The child ...*

can regularly go to school

has to do heavy or dangerous work

is a member of a children's union

is forced to work

is allowed to participate in decisions about their work

has to work at night

must only do light work

works on the streets

receives love

does not live with their parents

receives care and support

has to work long hours

has parents with jobs in their home country

lives in a dangerous country

lives in a country that funds education and other important infrastructures

and their family had to escape

— We asked children about working conditions that are not 'OK' for them. The most common answers were:

- ☒ It is unhealthy, unsafe, or there's a risk of accident or injury
- ☒ They are still too small or too weak, and the work too hard
- ☒ It is forbidden
- ☒ It is extremely dangerous for them
- ☒ It gets in the way of their studies
- ☒ Low payment, no payment at all, or overlong working hours
- ☒ Their religion or culture does not allow it



10th May

Dear diary,
Back home after a fantastic journey round the world (just in time for Mum's birthday)! I got to meet some incredible children. They showed us their work and lives and they gave us a 'Flower of Support'. The flower greeting and its messages are for all those people around the world who can help working children to improve their lives.



"The Time to Talk Project has come up with 12 recommendations for improving the lives of working children. These are six of them!"



Lots of suitable solutions

It is important to learn from children and families where and how they live, and why children work. Then we can understand that they have very different lives. Therefore, a lot of different solutions are needed.
The right solution for every child.

Fight poverty

Governments must do more for families. They must combat poverty, create jobs and help parents if they are ill or cannot find any work. Then children will not have to work under hazardous conditions, and can go to school and play in their free time.

Strengthen children's rights

Children have the right to express their opinion, to be informed, to participate, and to assemble. Everyone should understand that. Especially those who have a say in the world of children: families, schools, at work, in communities and politics. Everyone should listen to children's points of view and take them seriously.

Make education possible

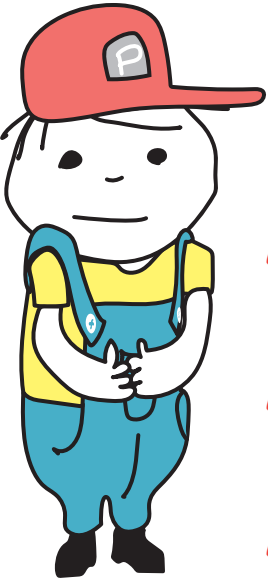
Children have a right to education. All children! Children living in cities, in rural areas, refugee children, and even those who live remotely. Every child should be able to go to a good school - without paying! Adolescents should be able to try out practical jobs and learn the trade.

Stop exploitation!

Children must be protected from dangerous and harmful work. From work that they have to do against their will, and from work with low or no wages, or overlong working hours and especially from forbidden work. Laws and regulations for this must be observed and realized.

Protect children from violence

Children must be protected from violence. Whether it's in the family, at school, at work or anywhere else. Child protection systems must be created and funded to help with this.



Who are you? Do you work too? Tell us about yourself!

My name:

My age:

My work:

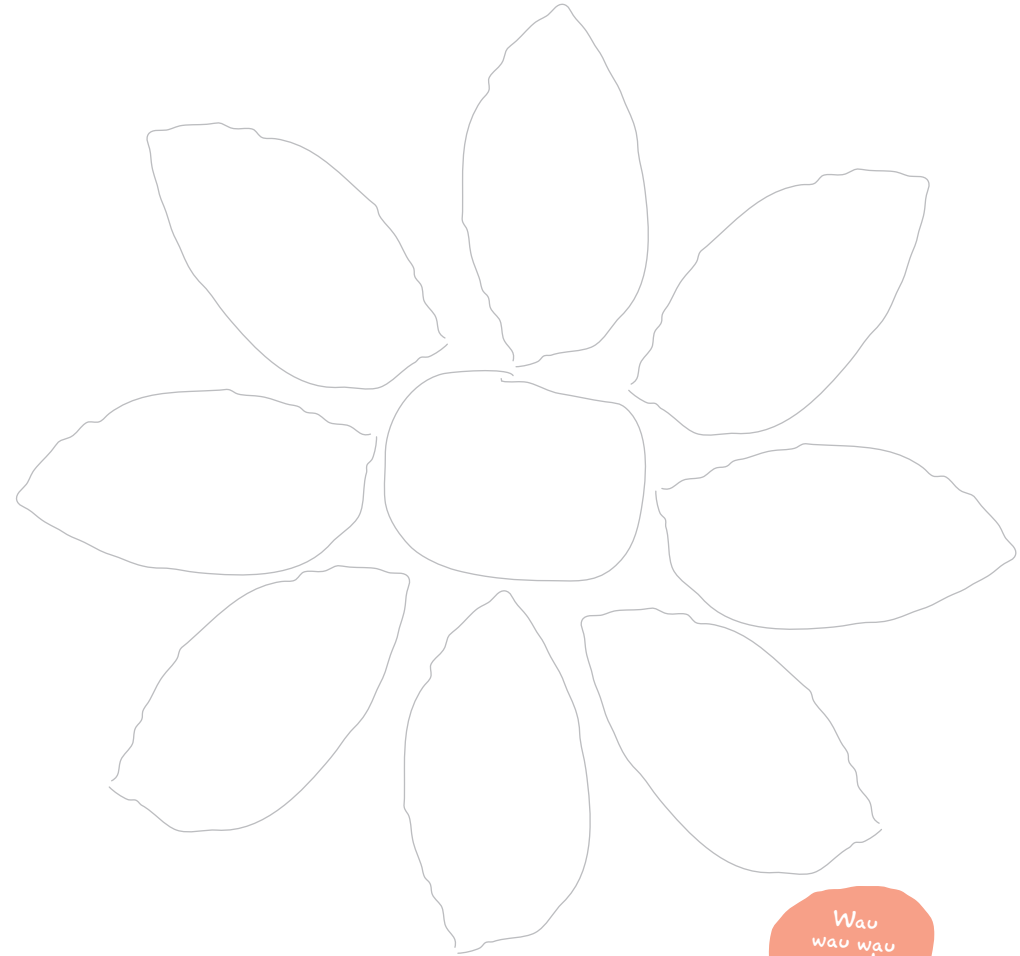
My day:

My family:

My friends:

My dreams:

Write your message to everyone who can make your work and your life better in the Flower of Support.

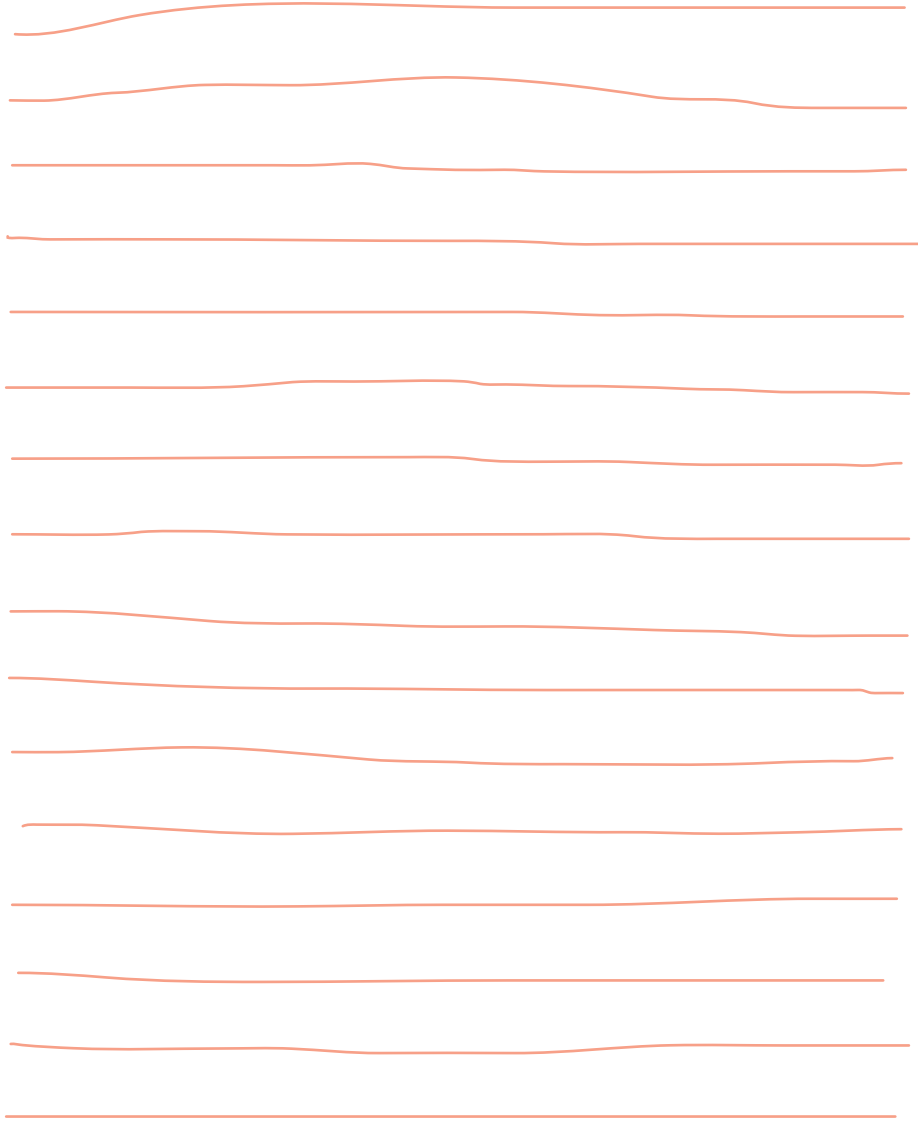


Wau wau wau wau!



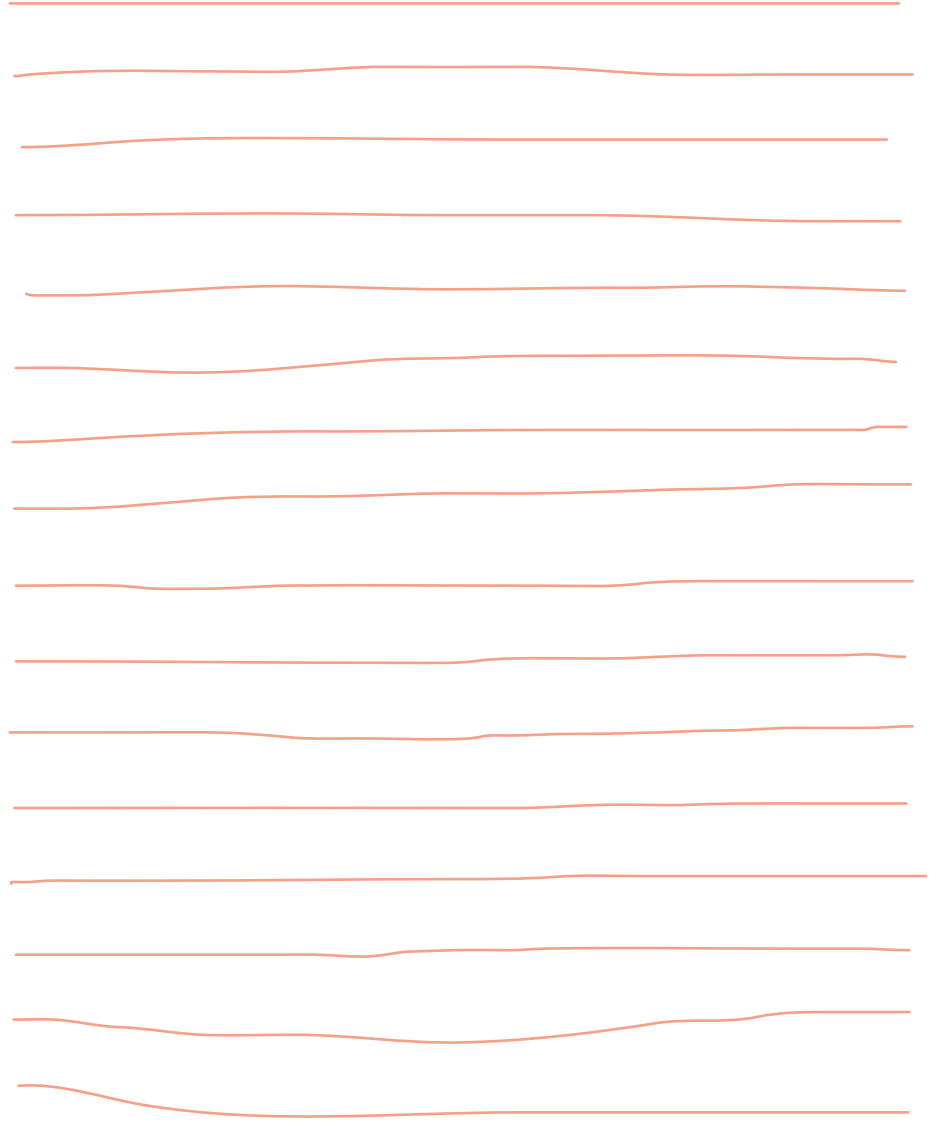
Trixi has a message for Paul, too: Let's play 'throw the stick' and then give my back a scratch, OK?

Notes



A series of 18 horizontal lines for handwriting practice. Each line is slightly wavy and has a small gap at the right end.

Notes



A series of 18 horizontal lines for handwriting practice. Each line is slightly wavy and has a small gap at the right end.

Special thanks go to the 1822 children and youth participants who actively shared their views with us and made this research possible. Further thanks go to all members of our children's advisory committees who supported us as advisers, analysts and advocates.



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Further information about the project and research report:
www.time-to-talk.info



Find more detailed information in our main report!



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not
hilfe



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