

A close-up illustration of a young girl with dark, curly hair and a purple beanie. She has a wide, joyful smile, showing her teeth and tongue. Her eyes are squinted, and her cheeks are rosy. The background is a solid purple color. A white, rounded rectangular box is centered over her face, containing the text "THE NO LACES CLUB" in bold, black, uppercase letters.

**THE NO LACES CLUB**



### Credits

**Authorship:** Mar Palenzuela Saus, Aida Rosell Rodríguez, Belén Fuentes Ibarra, Penélope Perles Sequí, M. Dolores Navarro Pérez, Eleonora Drago, Silvia Bertolini, Marco Lobb, Irene Bertana, Miguel Buitrago, Chiara Lipari, Freddy Jussien

**Illustrations:** Ana Noguera Escalera

**Layout Design:** Nuria Robles Miguélez

**Font:** The font used in this book is OpenDyslexic.

OpenDyslexic by Abelardo Gonzalez is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>.

**ISBN:** 978-84-09-64555-8

© 2024 by EarlyBrain Partnership

This work "Earlybrain Compilation of Tales," is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0).

You are free to:

- Share – copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format.
- Adapt – remix, transform, and build upon the material.

Under the following terms:

- Attribution – You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made.
- NonCommercial – You may not use the material for commercial purposes.
- ShareAlike – If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>.





First day of school, Alex was nervous, once again people called her by that nickname she didn't like.

They also laughed when she fell or tripped on the stairs, when she stepped on her shoelaces and even at her peculiar way of talking. Besides, she was always picked last for the playground soccer team.





But that day was going to be different, the teacher introduced them to Sasha, a new girl in class.

Sasha was different from the rest of her classmates. She wore baggy clothes, super funny knee pads and very strange shoelaces, each one in a different color.



When class started Sasha sat down next to her and pulled out a cool pencil case.

All the pencils were neatly arranged and held together with rubber bands. Some of them were small and some of them had two colors.







On the playground, Sasha was picked first.

Although she didn't seem to play very well, she encouraged the rest of the team and gave instructions on how to play better.



When it was time to go home, Sasha did something that caught Alex's attention. She put on her jacket in a very peculiar way,



yet it seemed to turn out to be very simple.



Then she did the same with her backpack - perfect!





Sasha was so cool! She wanted to be her friend, but how could she get close to her?

She had made up her mind, the next day when she arrived at school she would greet her and ask about her shoelaces.



The next morning, Sasha was right at the front of the line.

Alex was about to approach her with determination, when she tripped over her shoelaces and fell to the ground.

Everybody started laughing, except for Sasha who quickly approached her.





-Are you all right? she asked as she helped her up.

-Yes, I tripped over my shoelaces, they keep coming undone and I'm not good at tying them-, said Alex, embarrassed.







-I used to have the same problem, that's why I'm wearing these elastic laces, while I'm practicing to tie them by myself.

-Well, they're super cute, but why are they different colors?

-Easy!,- she laughed, - One color for the right foot and one for the left, so I don't make a mistake.





The classes began. They had to write the date on the blackboard. Alex tried to take her pencil out of the pencil case, but all the things flew out. Sasha handed her one of hers.

It was so small that she had to hold it differently, but it was more similar to how the rest of the class did it, and her handwriting seemed better.



At P.E. time, Sasha picked Alex for her team. She played defense with her. She would tell her how to play better and help her practice.

-Alex, You're doing great, keep it up!





What a fun day. Now it was time for the worst part, changing clothes again. Alex always came last. Sasha noticed it and came over to help her.



-Wait, put the jacket on like this, you'll see how easy it is, - said Sasha, putting her jacket on the table.

-Great, I put it on by myself.- Alex was so happy.

The two were playing pat-a-cake.

Well, they tried, because they weren't good at it and didn't get to touch hands. They kept laughing and trying again.





The next day Alex kept asking Sasha about things that caught her attention.

-Why do you wear so many patches, why are your pencils two colors, why do you wear baggy clothes?

Alex had a thousand questions.





Sasha answered them all.

The baggy clothes were for dressing up better. Because she fell down so much, her grandmother put funny patches on her clothes to decorate them.

The small pencils helped her to hold them better and the two-color pencils helped her to practice her hand movements, plus she carried fewer colors and her pencil case could be neater.





She even taught her a few more tricks, like the mark she had on her socks to know which part went on top.

Another trick was to have drawings in a notebook with the things she had trouble doing or remembering, like brushing her teeth. She always forgot to put the toothpaste on.

Every trick that Sasha told her, Alex would tell her family, and they would put it into practice.

Little by little, Alex managed to do things on her own.





A few days later Alex showed up in class with some super cute elastic shoelaces. Upon seeing each other, the girls high-fived, this time yes, they had made it!

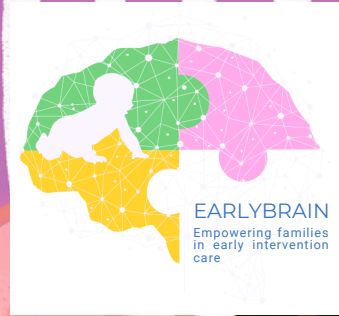
Since then, they decided to help their classmates who had trouble doing things like them and created the No Laces Club.











Co-funded by  
the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Erasmus+ programme under grant agreement No 2022-1-ES01-KA220-ADU-000088960.

The views expressed herein reflect those of the author and the Earlybrain consortium; the EU/Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains

