

Written and illustrated by Olivia Smith. © Mindful Mates 2025

"Let's get ready for blast off!"

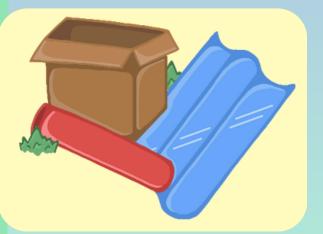
exclaimed Peaceful Platypus.

"Chill, Peaceful Platypus, we're still a long way away from blasting into outer space."

Kindness Koala casually responded.

The Mates stared at the piles of recycled materials scattered along the yard.

They had gathered a lot of materials in the mission of creating their rocket ship.



Brave 'Burra spent all morning creating a plan for how the rocket ship, and was excited to share it with everyone.

"Alright mates! I have a plan for how we can build the rocket."

Brave 'Burra explained their design and the other Mates cheered in agreement.

The Mates then looked at each other in awe of the big task ahead.

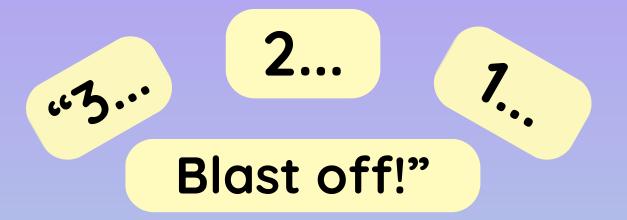


said Resilient 'Roo, breaking the silence among the mates.

"Let's start building this rocket everyone, paws in!"

The mates gathered in a team huddle, reached their paws and claws together in the centre of the circle,

and with a huge hurrah they shouted,



The mates scurried around the yard with incredible energy, collecting and constructing their materials.

Resilient 'Roo retrieved the planks of wood to build the base and Brave 'Burra gathered all the string and tape needed to keep the rocket together.

Up in the tree, Kindness Koala dropped down the loose sticks and branches while Peaceful Platypus gathered them...

> ...with the occasional bump on the head with the sticks Kindness Koala had lost a grip on.

Hours passed and the mates were ready to take a step back and admire their hard work.

"lt's..."

started Kindness Koala.

"Is it supposed to ... "

mumbled Resilient 'Roo.

"Brave 'Burra, I think something might have gone wro-"

Peaceful Platypus was interrupted by the devastating crumble of the rocket ship, back into a pile of random materials.



Tears started to well in Brave 'Burra's eyes, and they felt their heart sink to their stomach.



Brave 'Burra was facing an upsetting building barrier.

"It's alright Brave 'Burra, we can build it again!"

Reassured Resilient 'Roo.



"No, it's not okay, my plan didn't work, and I worked so hard on it."

Brave 'Burra replied with a shaky voice.

Kindness Koala noticed that Brave 'Burra was having a difficult time dealing with their feelings of disappointment about the crumbled rocket ship, and offered helpful advice.



"Brave 'Burra, do you want to practice breathing with me? I feel upset as well and it could help us manage our upsetting thoughts".

"Let's all practice Mindful Moves, together."

added Serenity Sloth.

After a moment of hesitation, Brave 'Burra decided that the mates were right and that deep breathing and moving their body would help boost their mood and clear their mind.

With deep breaths in and deep breaths out, the mates moved their bodies in the way that felt best for them.

Resilient 'Roo ran laps around the yard,

while Peaceful Platypus stretched in various yoga poses.

Kindness Koala swung from the branches,

and Brave 'Burra danced and flew around the yard to get their heart pumping and the good chemicals flowing through their body.



Brave 'Burra began to feel calmer and realised that one setback should not stop them from working towards their goal.

With a deep breath in, and a deep breath out, Brave 'Burra gathered the mates together again and they began working on their new plan to rebuild the rocket ship. Many different ideas of how the best rocket ship could be built were explored.

The mates listened carefully to each other to discuss what they all believed would be the best plan.

After compromising on different ideas and materials, the Mates had developed a brand new rocket ship design.

With much excitement, they gathered again in their team huddle, hurrahed, and began building their rocket.

Hours had passed again, and this time when they stood back, in front of them was a glorious, state of the art rocket ship destined for the moon.

The mates cheered and celebrated their hard work.

Brave 'Burra smiled with pride, looked at the mates and said,

"Alright team, who is ready for blast off?"

