

Rosa's Lesson

Rosa's older sister Maria was getting married. That made Rosa very happy. Rosa wanted to help the grownups make sweet tamales for the party after the wedding. But her mother told her to watch her two-year-old brother in the other room. Rosa was not happy. Pouting, she left the kitchen to take care of her brother. She thought to herself, "This isn't fair. I'm big enough to help with the cooking. But instead I'm stuck watching the baby."

When she saw that her little brother was napping, she decided to sneak back into the kitchen. "Even watching them cook the tamales is better than being stuck with the baby," she thought.

She hid in the corner and watched her mother fill the corn husks. Suddenly, a loud crash came from the other room—the room where she was supposed to be watching her brother. Everyone rushed out of the kitchen to see what had happened.

Scattered all over the floor were numerous books and magazines. And in the middle was Rosa's little brother, playing with a coloring book. All eyes turned to Rosa, who was still in the kitchen.

"Rosa? What happened?" her mother asked.

Rosa felt terrible. "I'm sorry, Mama. I was in the kitchen. I wasn't watching him. I'm so sorry."

Rosa's mother bent down and hugged her. "It's okay. No one was hurt. But now do you see why I needed you to watch your brother?"

Rosa nodded. "Yes, Mama. Now I understand. I'll clean this up, I promise. And I promise that I'll watch him, even during the party."

Rosa's mother smiled and kissed her. She said, "Thank you, Rosa. That's very responsible of you." Then she added with a wink, "We can make tamales together another day."