



Play with me

This book belongs to









bookdash.org

Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five. To that end, Book Dash gathers creative volunteers to create new African storybooks that anyone can freely print, translate and distribute. Then we work with partners to give those books to preschool children to own.

To find out more, and to download beautiful, open-licensed, print-ready books, visit bookdash.org.

Play with me

Illustrated by Heleen Steyn van der Merwe

Written by Sabina Mutangadura

Designed by Jamie Calf

Edited by Dave Mann

with the help of the Book Dash participants in Johannesburg on 19 September 2026.

ISBN: 978-1-997453-73-4

Typeset in Andika and Grandstander

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence
(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

You are free to share (copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format) and adapt (remix, transform, and build upon the material) this work for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the following license terms:

You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. No additional restrictions: You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.



Play with me

Sabina Mutangadura

Heleen Steyn van der Merwe

Jamie Calf







All Jabu wants to do
is play.

What can he do?





Diketo!





But who can play
with him?





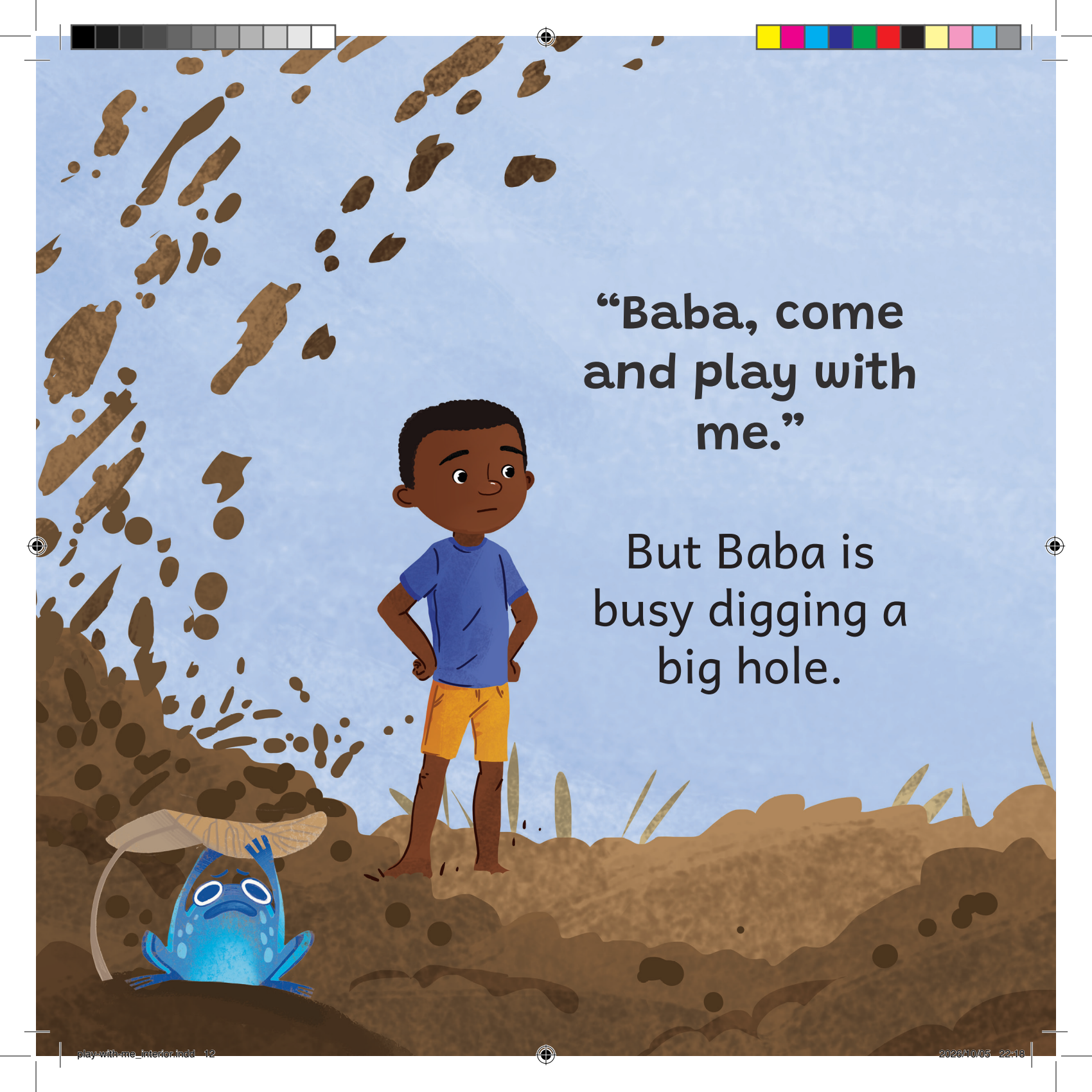
**“Mama,
come and
play with
me.”**





But Mama is cooking
pap and spinach.





“Baba, come
and play with
me.”

But Baba is
busy digging a
big hole.





“Zwe,
come and
play with
me.”



But his brother is busy reading.





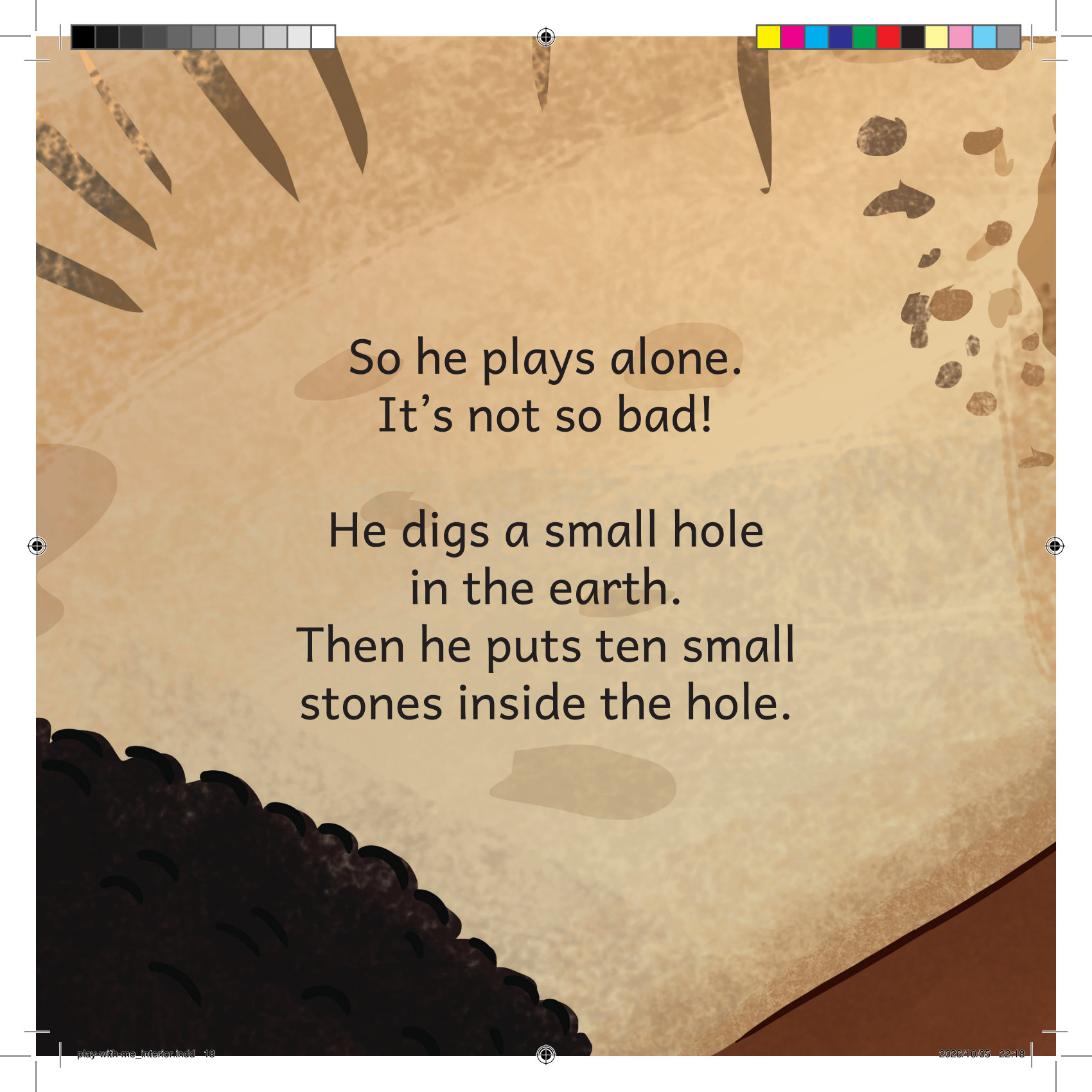


Jabu sits outside.

He wants to play diketo!

But there is no one to play with.





So he plays alone.
It's not so bad!

He digs a small hole
in the earth.
Then he puts ten small
stones inside the hole.





so much fun!





Dad sees Jabu
and stops digging
his big hole.

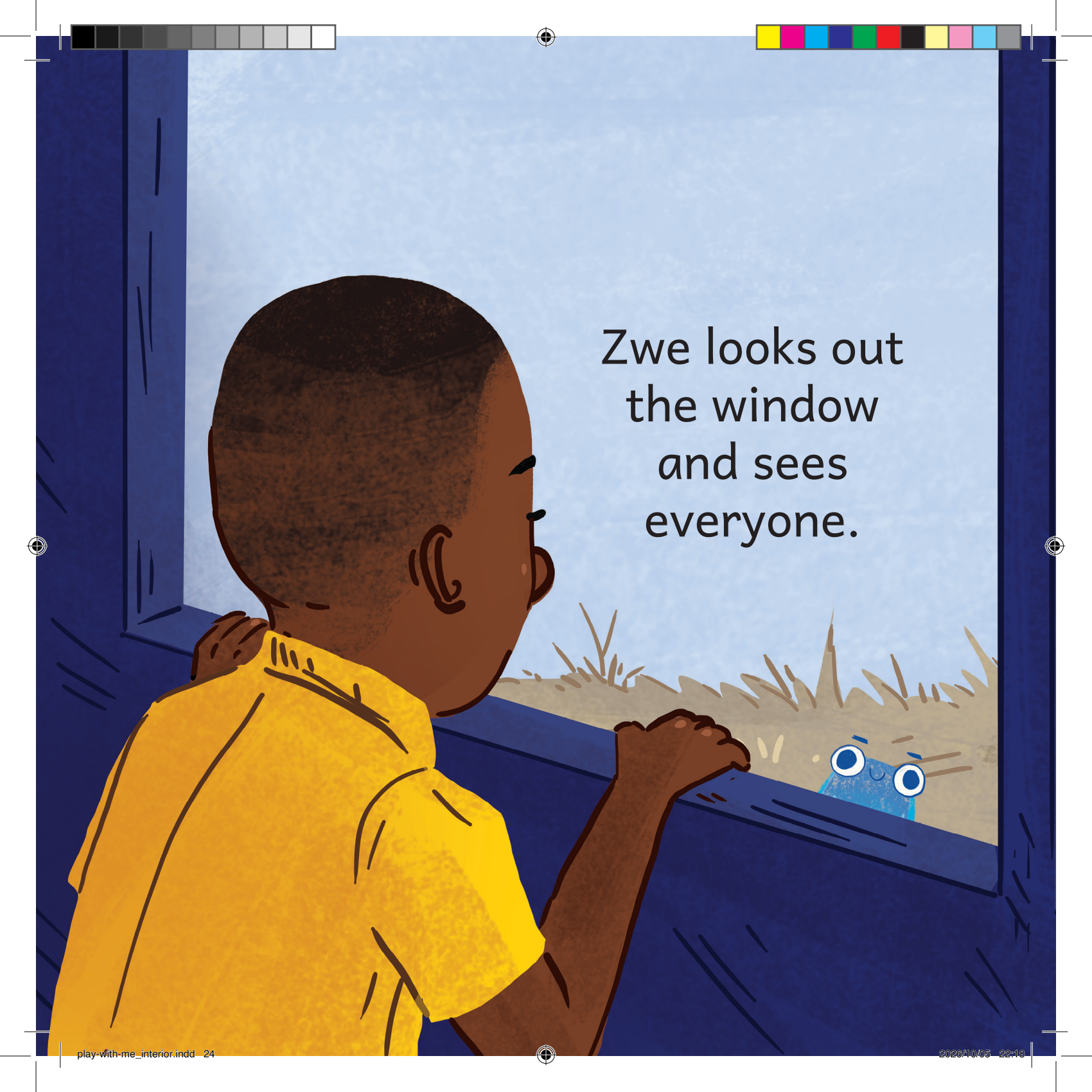




Mama comes out with some
pap and spinach.







Zwe looks out
the window
and sees
everyone.



He doesn't want to miss
out on all the fun.
So he goes to join them.











At last, Jabu has people
to play with.





