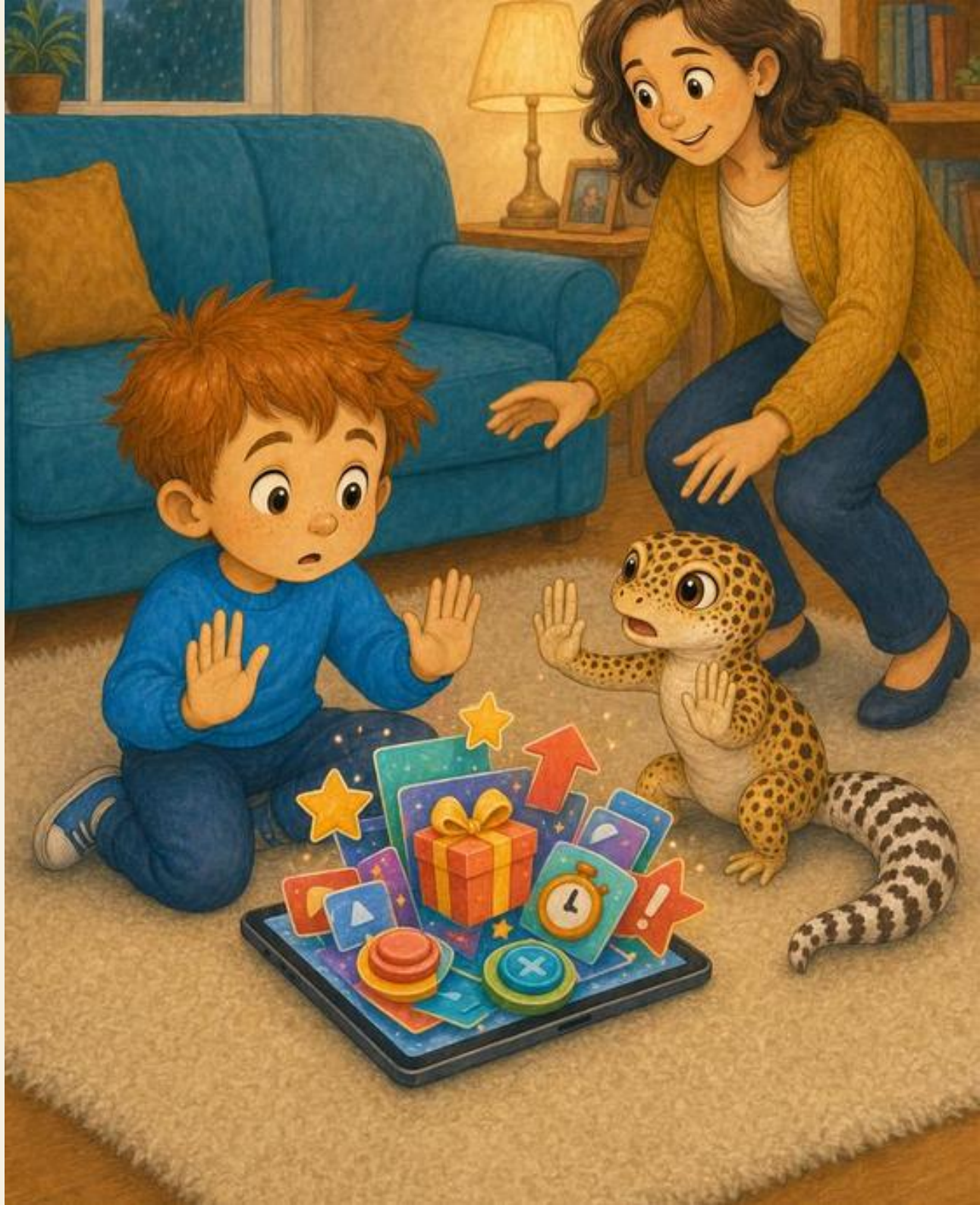


JB'S BRIGHT BUTTON ADVENTURES

Leo and the Pop-Up Parade

STOP. DON'T TAP. ASK.

A read-together story for approximately ages 4 to 6





A prize from nowhere

Leo was building a dinosaur park when a golden prize box bounced across the tablet. You won! it flashed. A bright button wiggled underneath. Leo had not entered a competition, but the prize looked exciting.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Pop-ups, fake prizes, bright arrows and countdowns are designed to create urgency. Teach the child that sudden promises of something free are a reason to pause, not a reward to claim.



The button jumble

More buttons marched onto the screen. One was enormous and sparkly. Another looked like a tiny cross. Leo's finger hovered between them. JB raised both front feet. Do not guess, he said. Tricky adverts can dress up the wrong button. Leo put his hands in his lap.

FOR GROWN-UPS

A close symbol inside an advert can be delayed, tiny or misleading. For a young child, the safest rule is not to test any button. Ask a grown-up to take over.



Mum checks the screen

Leo called Mum and placed the tablet on the rug without tapping anything. Mum thanked him for stopping. She used the tablet's own controls to leave the game, then checked the app settings. It was an advert, not a prize. JB swept the pretend parade away with his tail.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Use the device's own Home, Back or app controls rather than an advert's buttons. Check the app-store age rating, advertising label and reviews, and remove apps that repeatedly use manipulative adverts.

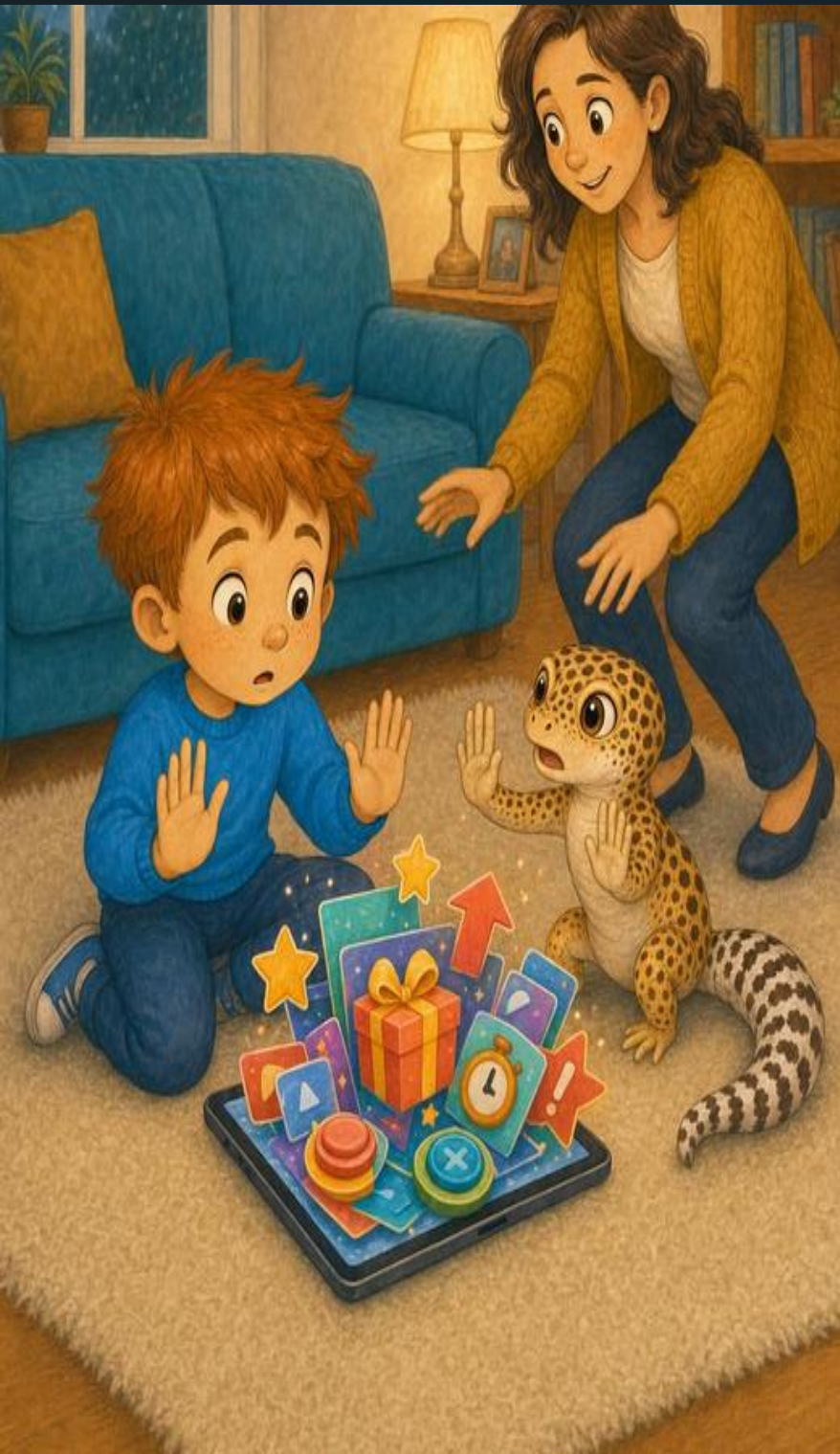


Leo spots the trick

The next day, another box promised a free dinosaur if Leo tapped before the timer finished. Leo stopped, put the tablet down and asked Mum. The timer reached zero and nothing bad happened. JB played an imaginary trumpet for the safest parade leader in the room.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Use a child profile, require approval for installs and purchases, and block browser pop-ups and website notifications. Prefer age-appropriate apps without adverts where practical.



YOUR BRIGHT BUTTON

REMEMBER

If a prize, advert or pop-up appears, stop. Do not tap the prize, arrow or little cross. Put the device down and ask a trusted grown-up.

TALK ABOUT IT

- What made the prize try to hurry Leo?
- What can you do when lots of buttons suddenly appear?

TRY IT TOGETHER

Place a pretend paper pop-up over an inactive screen and practise hands off, device down and ask a grown-up.

PARENT SETUP

- Require adult approval for new apps and purchases, and remove stored payment details where approval cannot be enforced.
- Block browser pop-ups and website notifications in the child's profile.
- Prefer age-appropriate apps without adverts and remove apps that repeatedly use misleading buttons or fake prizes.

GROWN-UP GUIDE

bastionhost.co.uk/security/families

Read and discuss with your child. Parent guide reviewed 15 August 2026.

HOW THIS STORY WAS MADE

Developed with generative AI assistance and reviewed by the site owner before publication.