

# Karen Helps Out

by Elizabeth Trach

Karen sat at the kitchen table. She finished her last bite of cereal as she watched Dad fill a bucket with tools. "What are you working on today?" she asked.

"Last week I fixed the porch railing," Dad said. "That means today it's ready to paint."

"Can I help?" asked Karen. Dad usually said no, because his tools were sharp and too heavy for Karen to pick up. Karen usually just watched Dad work.

"Yes," said Dad. "Painting is a safe job for you to try. Go put on some old clothes and meet me out front."

Karen found play clothes from last summer that were a little small. Next year they wouldn't fit at all. It would be okay if she dripped paint on them by mistake. Karen was planning to be very careful.

"Ready!" called Karen. She sat down on the top porch step.

Dad dipped his paint brush into a can of white paint. Karen watched as he carefully wiped the edge of the brush on the side of the can. "That's what you do to get rid of extra paint. See? No drips." Then dad made one long smooth line of paint along the porch railing. "Remember to paint in just one direction so things stay neat," said Dad.

Karen was very excited to try painting herself. She dipped her brush in the paint and wiped the edge, just like Dad. Then she tried to paint a stripe on the railing. Her paint line started out nicely, but she soon ran out of paint.

"That's a good start," said Dad. "Now dip your brush in again and continue your line." Karen tried again. Soon her paint line was almost as long as Dad's. She watched as Dad went over her line one more time. He smoothed it out and connected it to his line.

"Painting is fun!" said Karen. She and Dad kept working together. Soon the whole railing was painted white. It looked fresh and clean.

"Great job, Karen," said Dad. "When it's dry, we can show Mom what we did today."

Karen smiled. She felt very proud. She couldn't wait to show Mom all her hard work later.

**Questions**

1. What job does Karen help Dad with?
2. What color was the paint?
3. Why did Karen need to wear old clothes?
4. How does Karen feel when she's done painting?

This passage includes words that students should learn to recognize on sight. We've highlighted 12 of these words below, from the Dolch sight word list for Pre-K through 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd grade. Tip: Read through the passage once with your student. Read a second time, but pause on the sight word and ask your student to say the word.

### Sight Word List

1. down
2. find
3. up
4. again
5. over
6. then
7. very
8. work
9. found
10. clean
11. keep
12. watch

Print and cut-out the flash cards below. Show each sight word to your student and ask them to say the word.

**down**

**find**

**up**

**again**

**over**

**then**

**very**

**work**

**found**

**clean**

**keep**

**watch**