

First Day Friends

It's the first day of soccer practice. The field is big and the kids are noisy. Sasha gets out of the car and walks to the sideline. Her stomach feels fluttery.

"Welcome!" booms the coach. He has a big voice. "We're just playing around today," he says.

Sasha doesn't want to play around. She wants to sit quietly and listen to the directions. But today there are no directions.

Sasha stands by the bench and watches the girls running back and forth. There are a lot of soccer balls and a lot of feet. There are a lot of shouts carrying through the air.

"Over here!"

"Kick it to me!"

"I'm open!"

Sasha has kicked the ball in the yard with Dad. But it was nothing like this. What should she do? How can she join in?

Suddenly, Sasha hears a quiet voice right beside her.

"Hello," the voice says. "I'm Mari. This is kind of scary."

Sasha nods. "Want to kick with me over there?"



Sasha and Mari find an empty corner of the field to play together. They kick the ball back and forth. When the whistle blows they carry their ball back to the bench.

“See you tomorrow?” Mari asks.

Sasha nods. Her stomach feels fluttery again. She can’t wait.



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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. What does Sasha want to do at the beginning of practice?
 - a. Sit quietly and listen to directions
 - b. Kick the ball
 - c. Talk to the coach
 - d. Run with the other girls

2. What do Sasha and Mari do together?
 - a. Run with the other girls
 - b. Talk to the coach
 - c. Kick the ball
 - d. Arrive at practice

3. Why does Sasha's stomach feel fluttery at the beginning of the story?
 - a. Because she was excited
 - b. Because she was hungry
 - c. Because she was sick
 - d. Because she was nervous

4. Why does Sasha's stomach feel fluttery at the end of the story?
 - a. Because she was excited
 - b. Because she was hungry
 - c. Because she was sick
 - d. Because she was nervous

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

1. What does Sasha want to do at the beginning of practice?
 - a. **Sit quietly and listen to directions**
 - b. Kick the ball
 - c. Talk to the coach
 - d. Run with the other girls
2. What do Sasha and Mari do together?
 - a. Run with the other girls
 - b. Talk to the coach
 - c. **Kick the ball**
 - d. Arrive at practice
3. Why does Sasha's stomach feel fluttery at the beginning of the story?
 - a. Because she was excited
 - b. Because she was hungry
 - c. Because she was sick
 - d. **Because she was nervous**
4. Why does Sasha's stomach feel fluttery at the end of the story?
 - a. **Because she was excited**
 - b. Because she was hungry
 - c. Because she was sick
 - d. Because she was nervous