




Rhino "Chills Out"

It was a beautiful Friday afternoon. School was out, and there was no homework to do. Rhino felt so happy he practically floated home from the bus stop. The whole weekend lay ahead, with plenty of time for his favorite activity, "**chilling out!**"



Rhino called his pal Bear to make plans. "**Hey Bear, come over and play! Let's ride bikes and have a catch.**" "Sorry, Rhino, but I can't," said Bear. "**I've got T-ball practice today at 4:00. I'm in a game tomorrow. And on Sunday my little cousin is having a birthday party. Another time, OK?**" Rhino was disappointed. He actually felt a little like crying. But he held back his tears and bravely called his pal, Tiger. "**Yo, Tiger,**" he began eagerly. "**Can you have a play date right now? C'mon over and we'll build something really awesome with blocks and stuff.**" "Gee, Rhino, I'd really like to, but Mom's taking me for new shoes this afternoon." "**How about tomorrow?**" Rhino asked, already feeling doubtful. "**Sorry, Rhino,**" said Tiger. "**I have karate in the morning and then my Dad is taking us fishing.**" Rhino hung up the phone feeling awful. Everyone was busy. Everyone had something cool to do and someone to do it with. Everyone but him!

He stormed angrily out of the house, and flopped down on on the grass. Lying on his back, Rhino got interested in a huge puffy cloud that floated by. It looked sort of like a horse and a rider. There was a wispy cloud trailing behind it. This one looked like a transforming superhero with a jet-pack. The next one reminded him of a space station. Rhino was lost in the clouds . . . he was chilling out! He didn't even notice his Mom standing outside on the grass. "**Rhino,**" she said with concern. "**I've been looking all over for you. You have a phonecall!**" Rodney could hardly believe it when she handed him the phone. "**Hey, Rhino...it's Monkey,**" said the voice at the other end. "**Wanna play baseball with me and Panda tomorrow? My Mom will pick you up at 10:00, OK!?**" "**Sure,**" said Rhino happily. "**I'll be ready.**" He felt so good he went back and kept watching the clouds float by.

