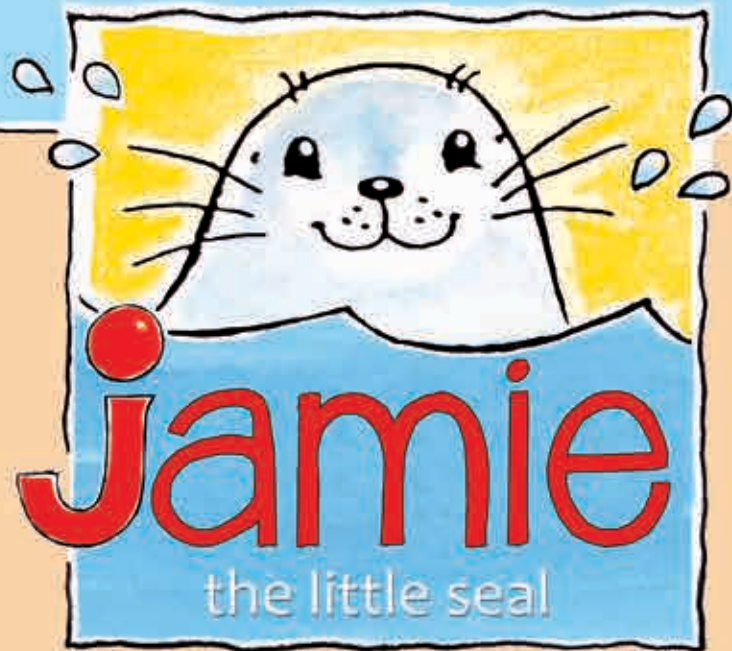


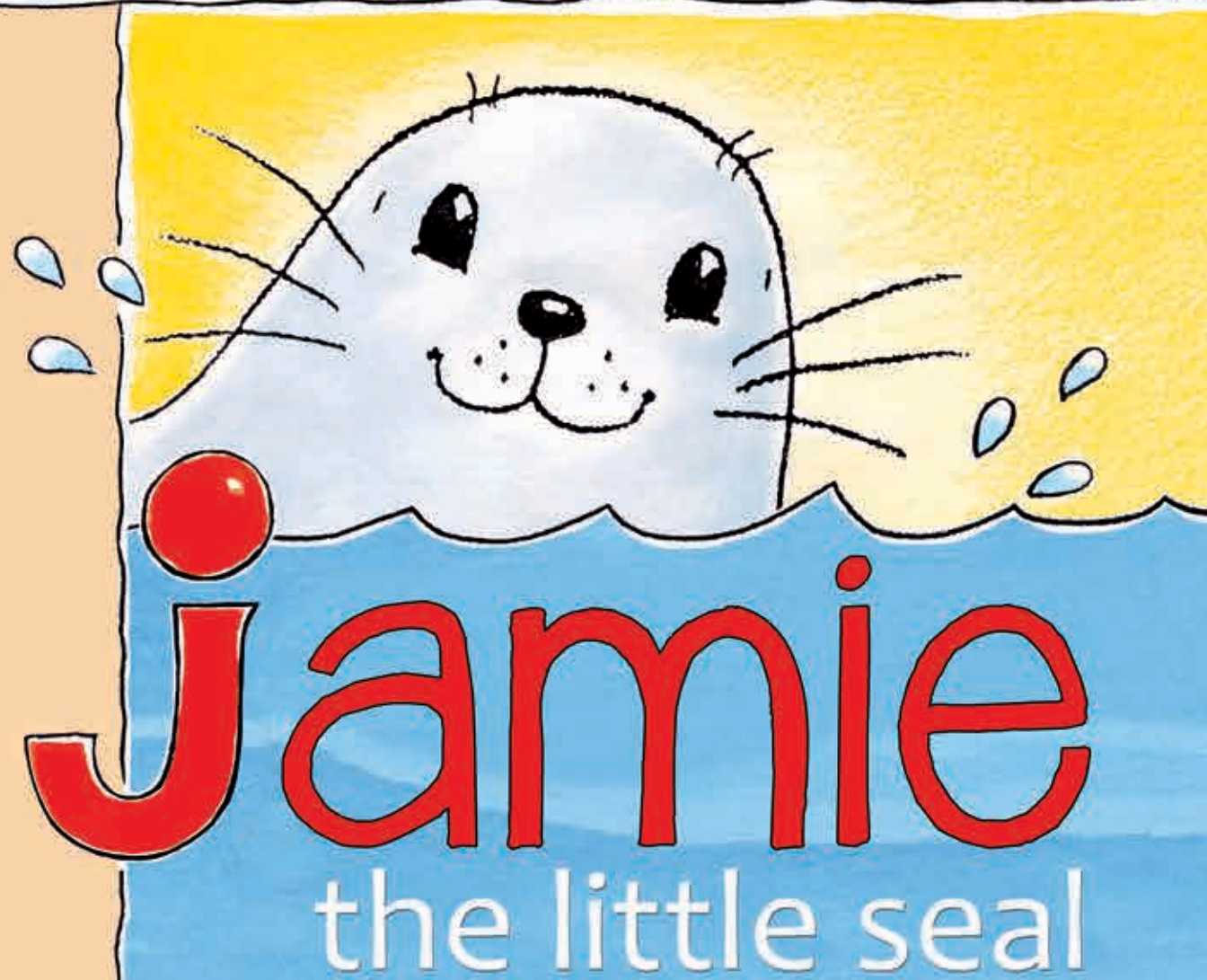
Monica Maas



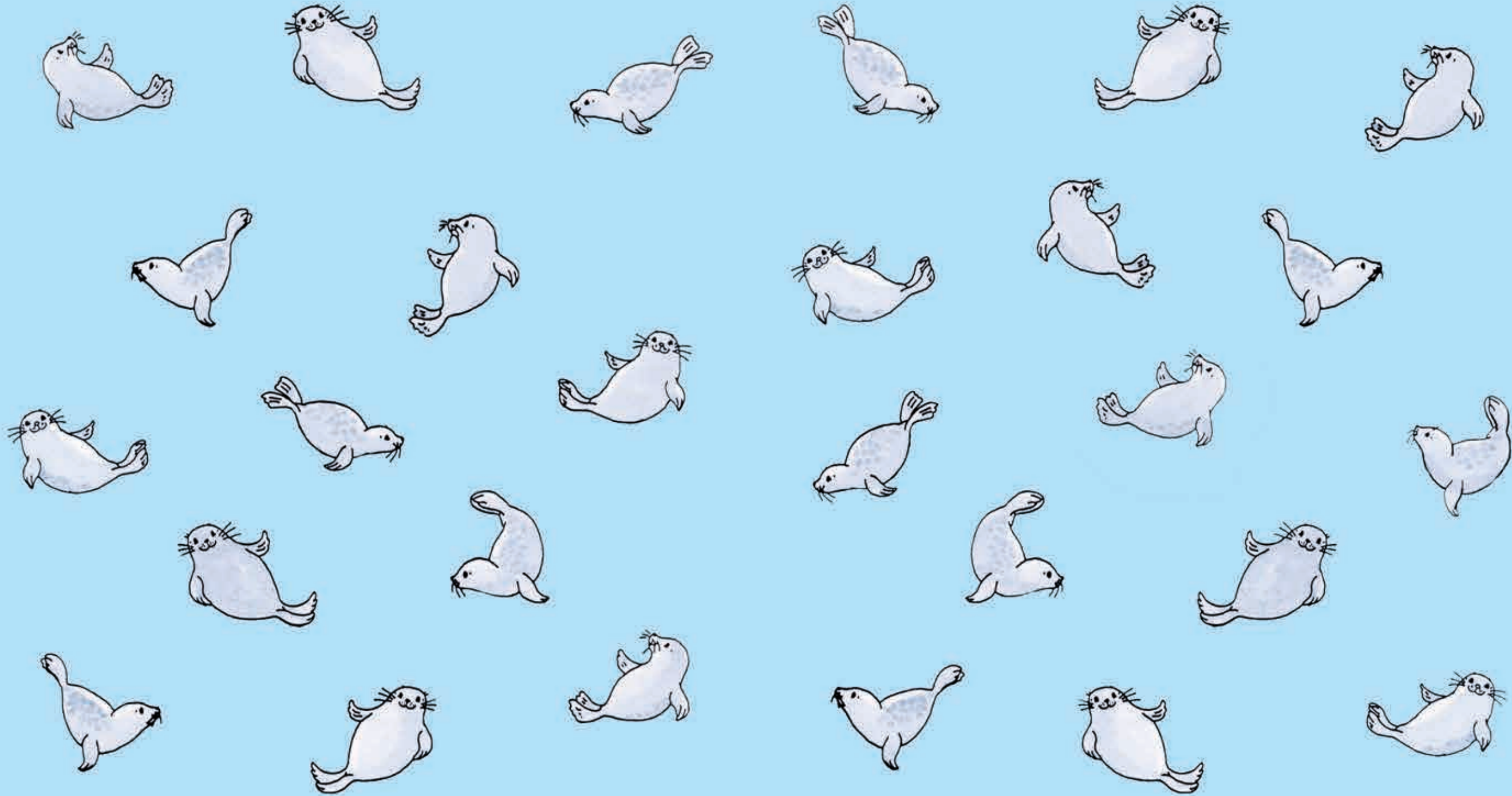
Jamie lives on a sandbank together with the other seals. One day he decides to go for swim, all alone...

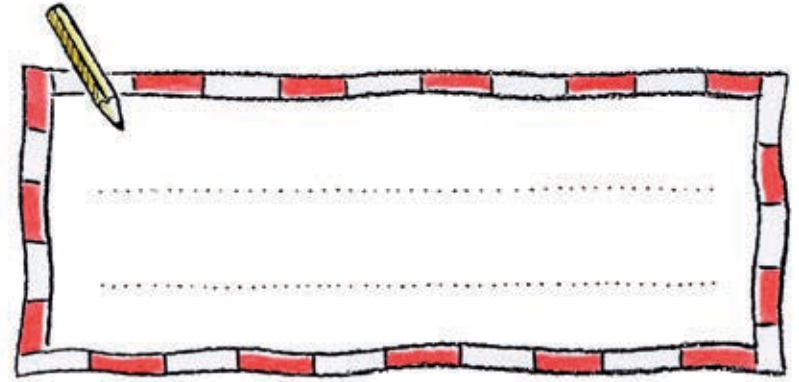


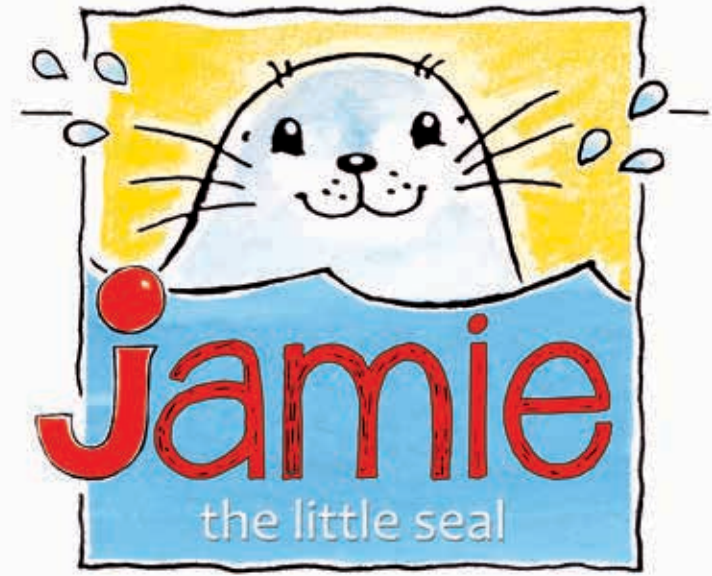
Monica Maas • Jamie, the little seal • De Vier Windstreken



De Vier Windstreken







Text and illustrations by Monica Maas

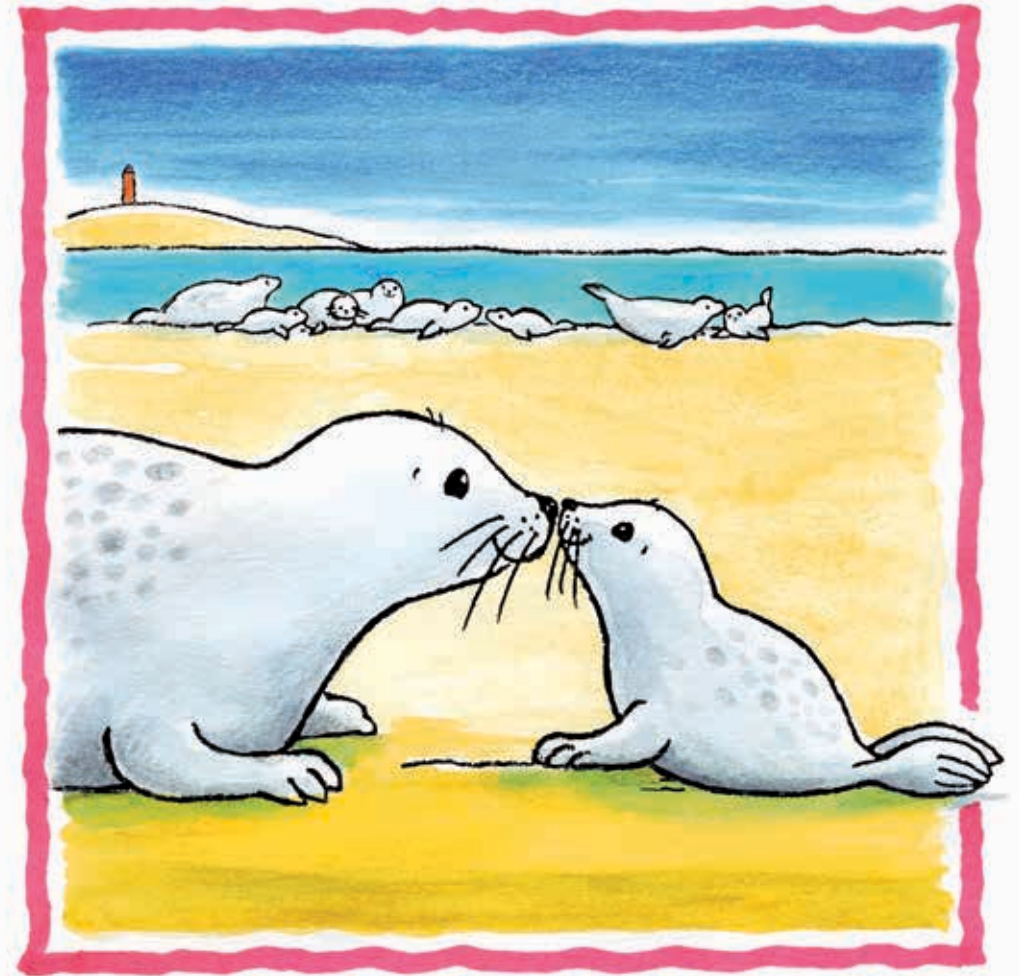


Op [www.vierwindstreken.com](http://www.vierwindstreken.com) kun je je aanmelden voor onze nieuwsbrief.  
Hier vind je ook al onze boeken en andere artikelen.

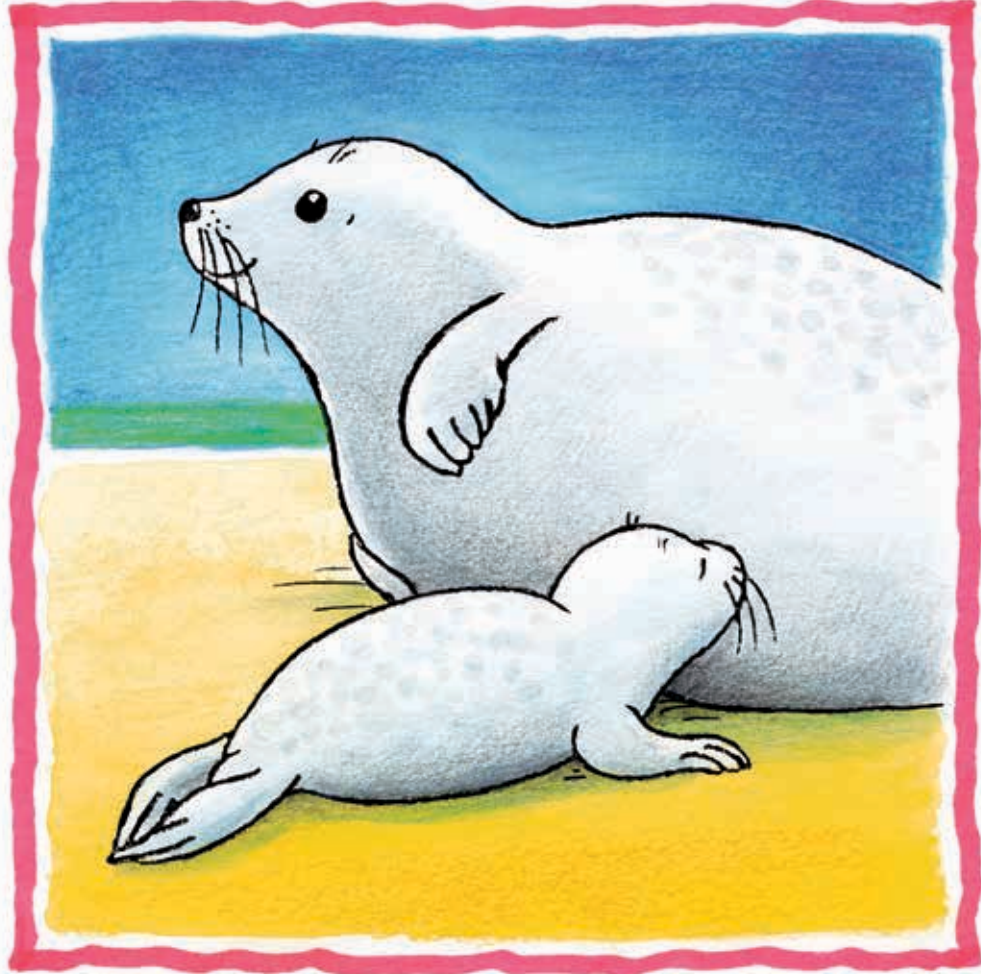
© 2013 De Vier Windstreken, Rijswijk  
Tekst en illustraties van Monica Maas  
Alle rechten voorbehouden. Gedrukt in België  
NUR 272, 273 / ISBN 978 90 5116 290 5

Niets uit deze uitgave mag veeleenvoudigd en/of openbaar gemaakt worden  
door middel van druk, fotokopie, microfilm of op welke andere wijze dan ook  
zonder voorafgaande schriftelijke toestemming van de uitgever.

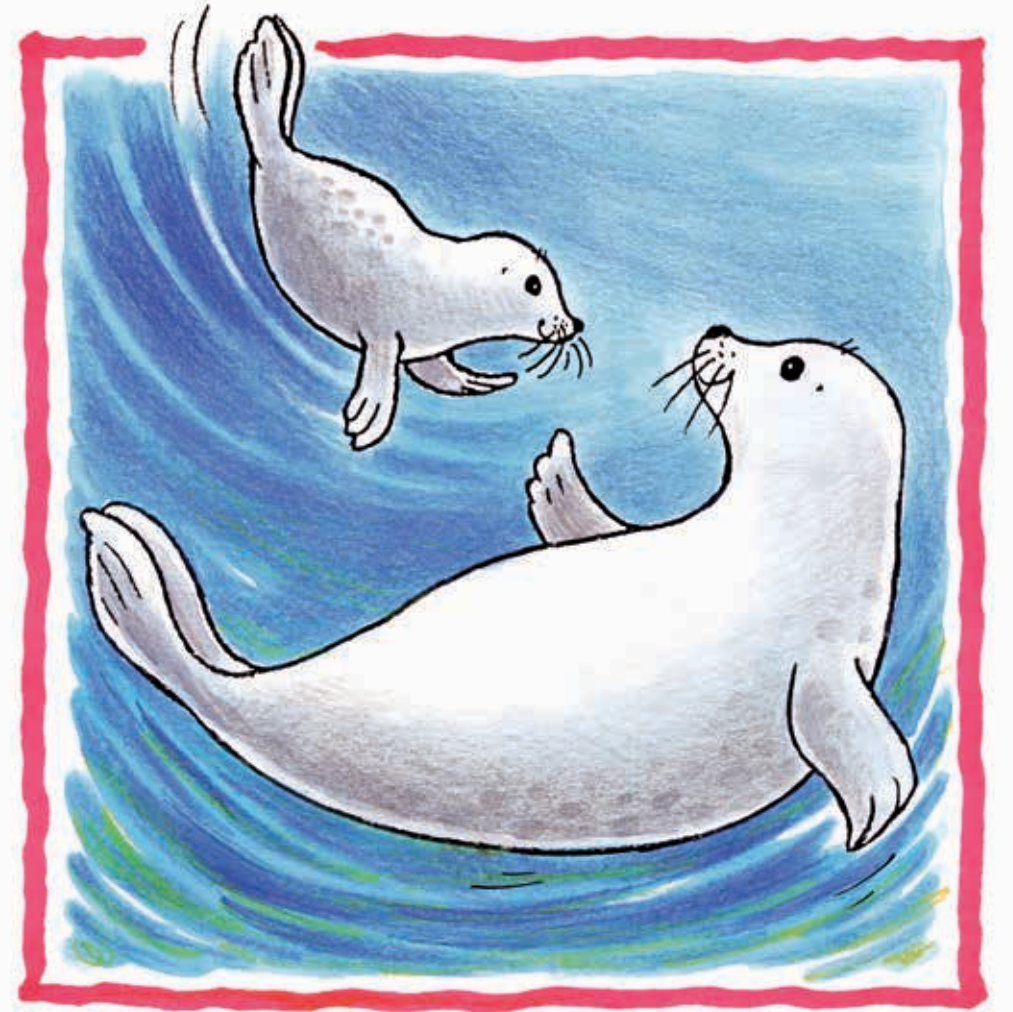
De Vier Windstreken



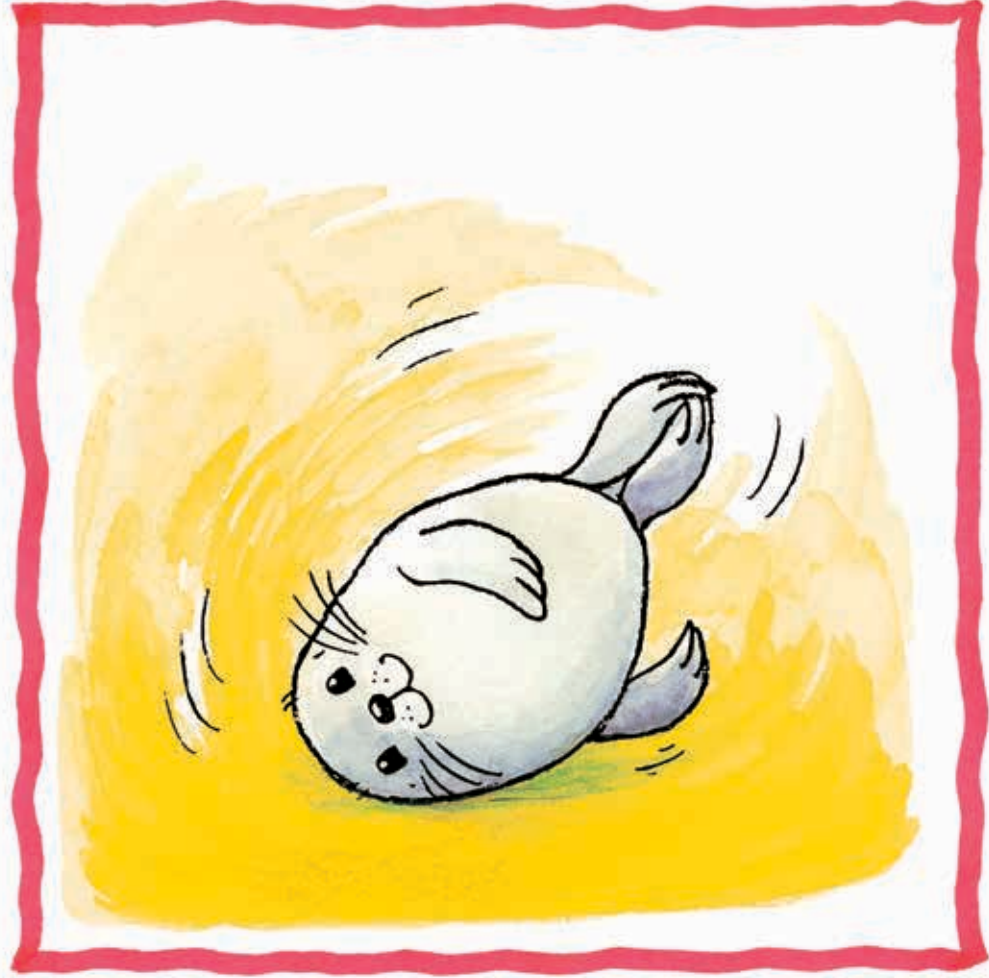
Look, it's Jamie, the little seal.  
Lying in the sun on the sandbank with his mum.



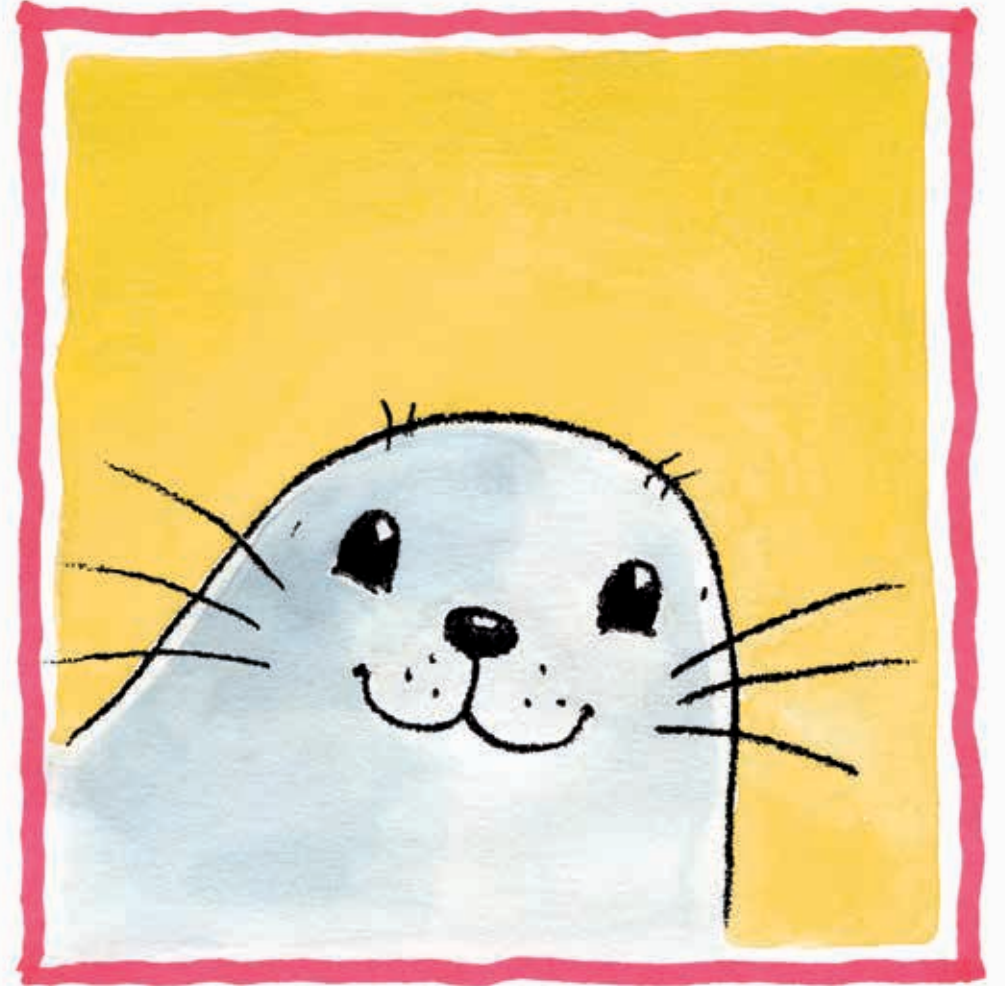
Jamie is hungry and drinks 'til he's full.  
Yummy, that's good!



Then Jamie dives into the sea.  
Mum's teaching him how to swim.  
"Great job, Jamie!" Mum says.



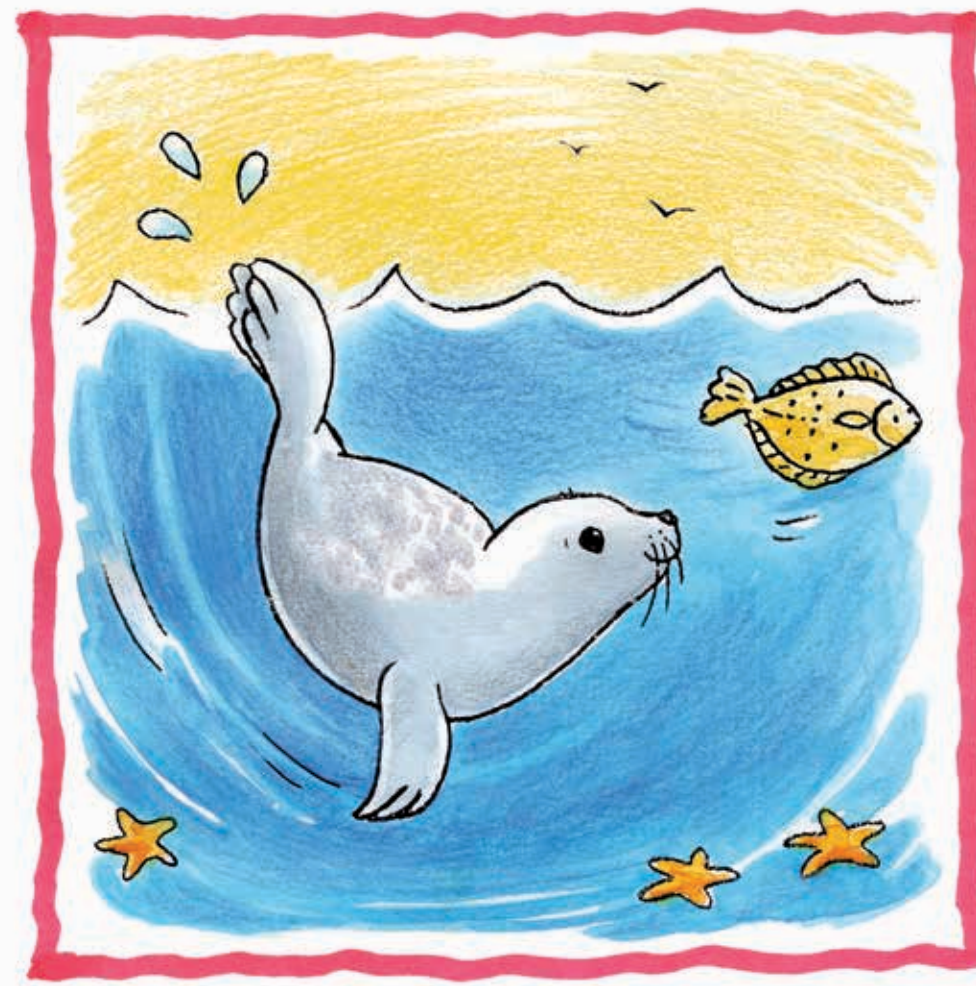
After the lesson, mum takes a nap in the sun.  
But Jamie isn't sleepy at all.  
He rolls around in the sand.



What should I do next? Jamie wonders.  
Then he has an idea.

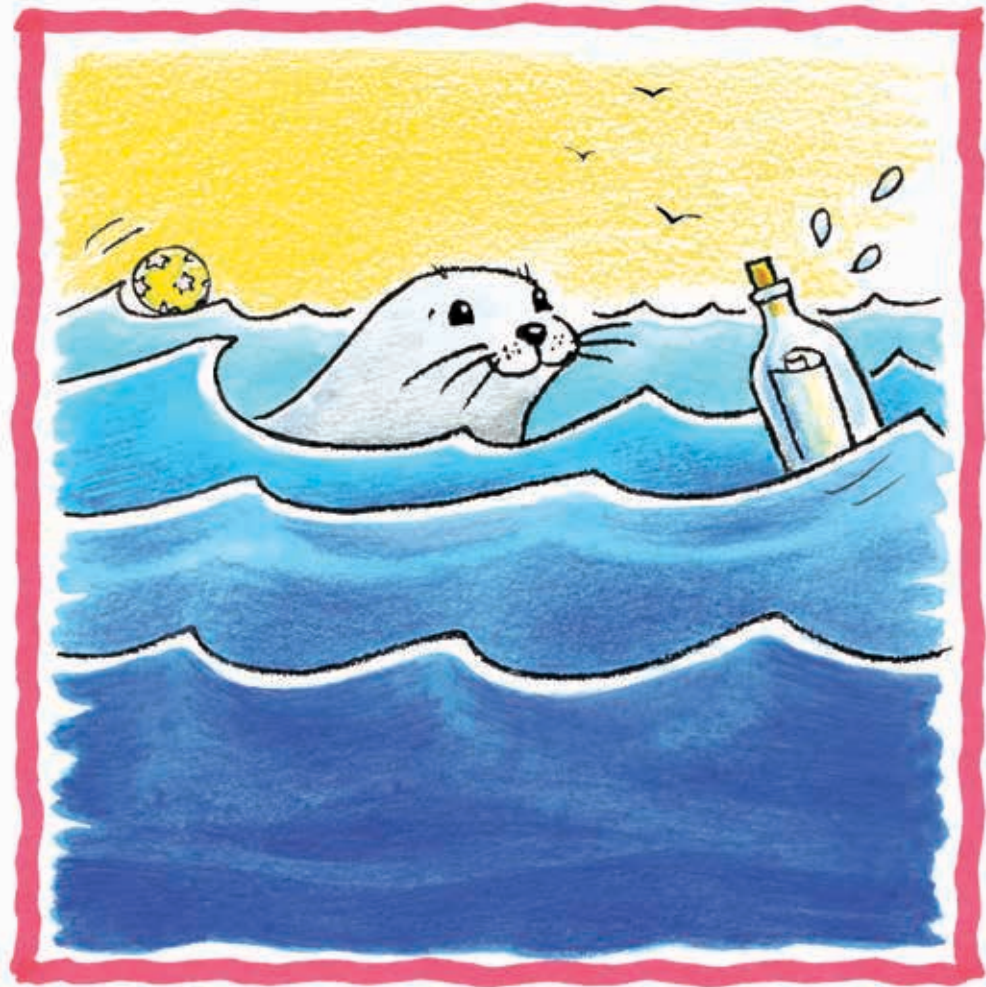


He gets back to the water, all alone.  
No problem at all!  
But would mum be okay with this?

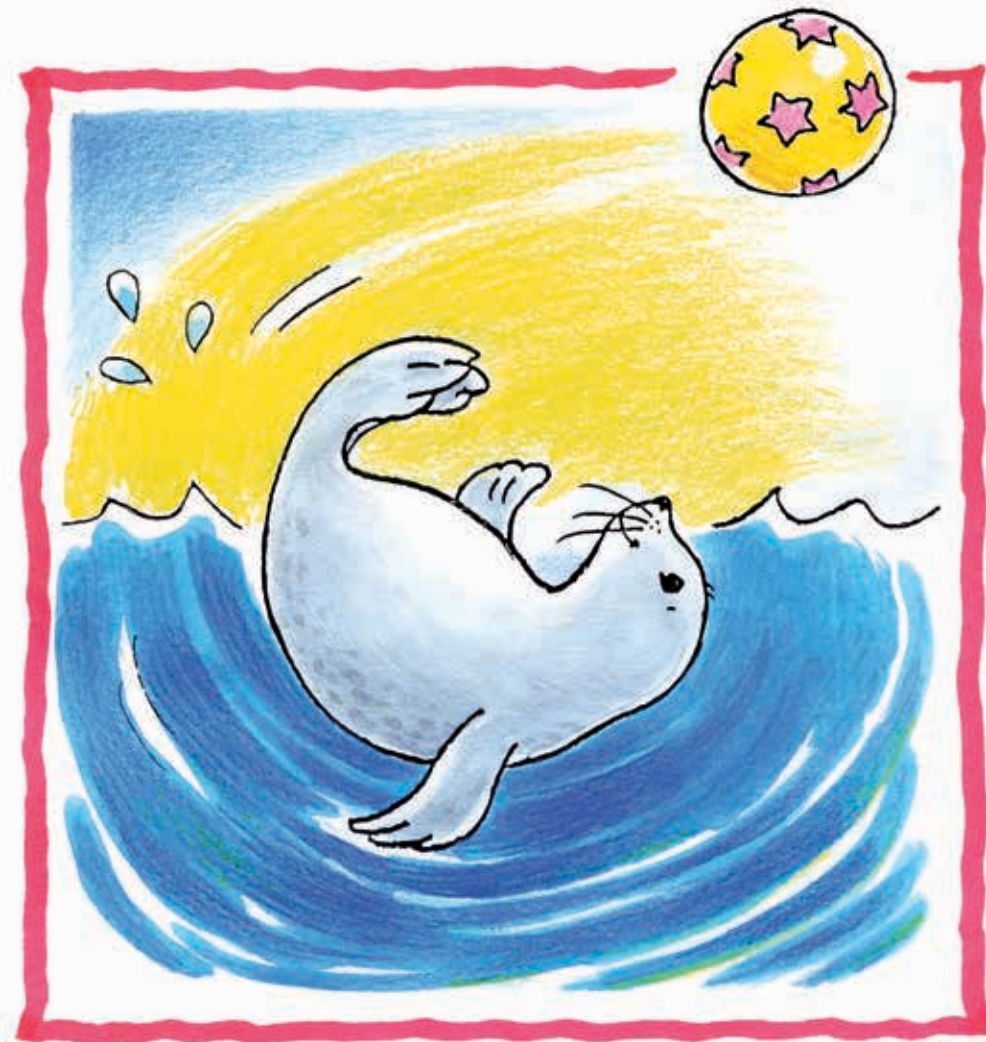


Jamie isn't thinking about his mum.  
"Hello starfish! Hello flatfish!" he yells.  
Swimming farther and farther away...

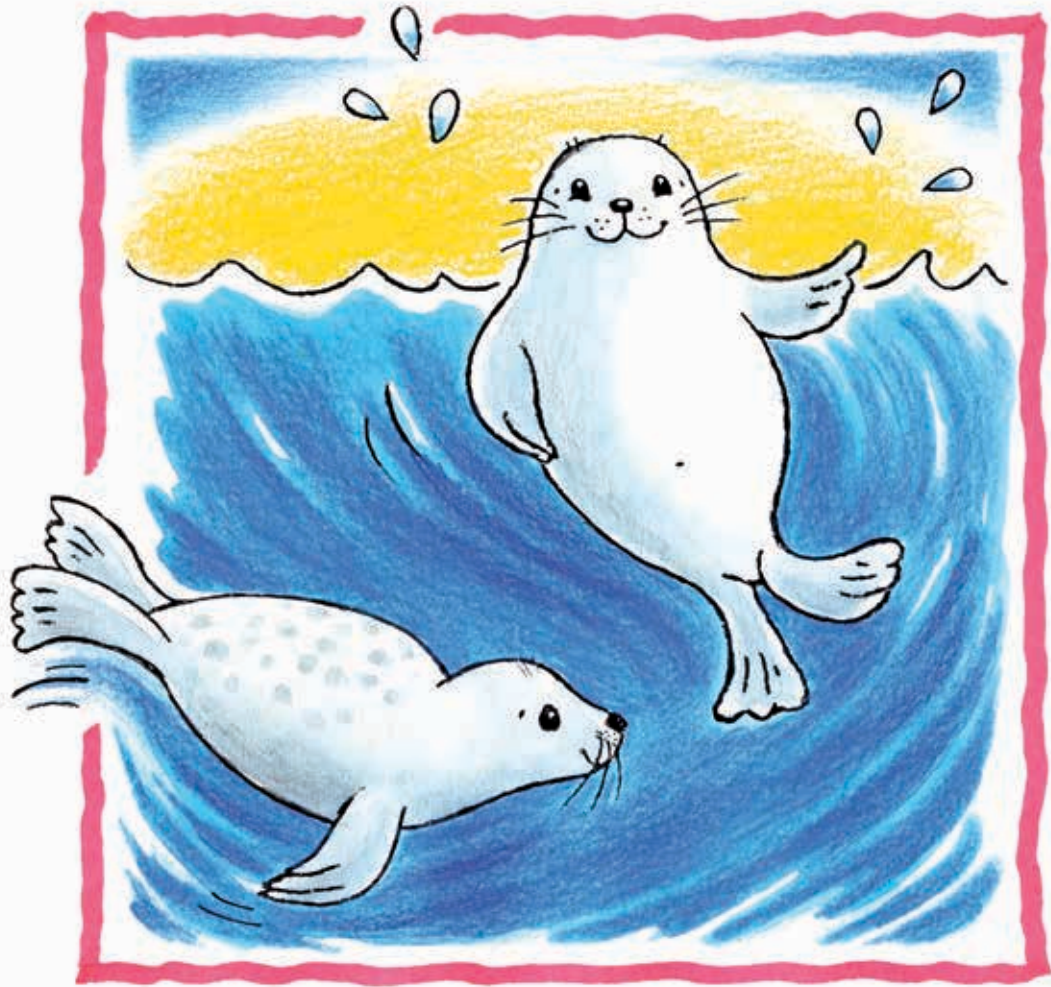




Now and then Jamie has to come up for air.  
He sees a bottle floating along.  
Look, there's a note in it.



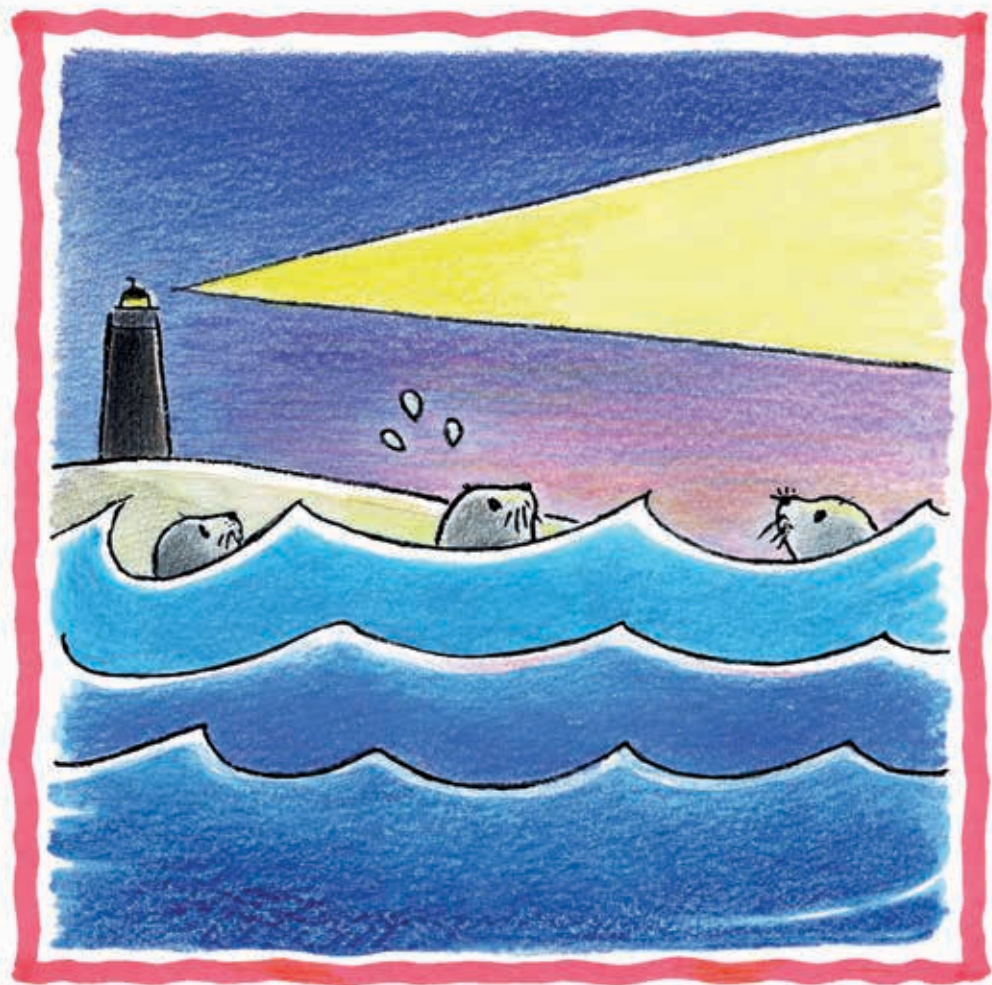
That's nice! A ball's drifting closer.  
Jamie gives it a good swing. And another.  
Swimming farther and farther all the while.



Then he comes across two other little seals.  
“Hey there Jamie, can we play?”



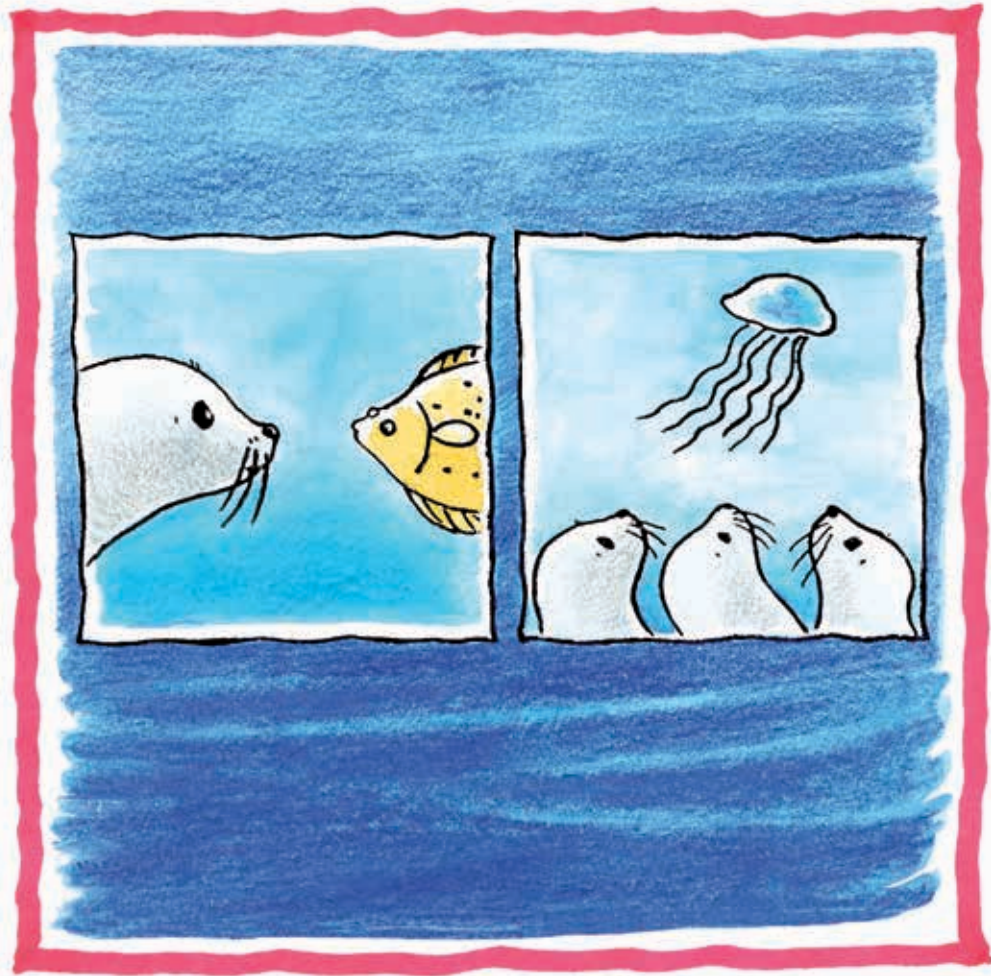
The three friends dive and splash around.  
They’re having lots of fun.  
But do not notice they’re drifting off.



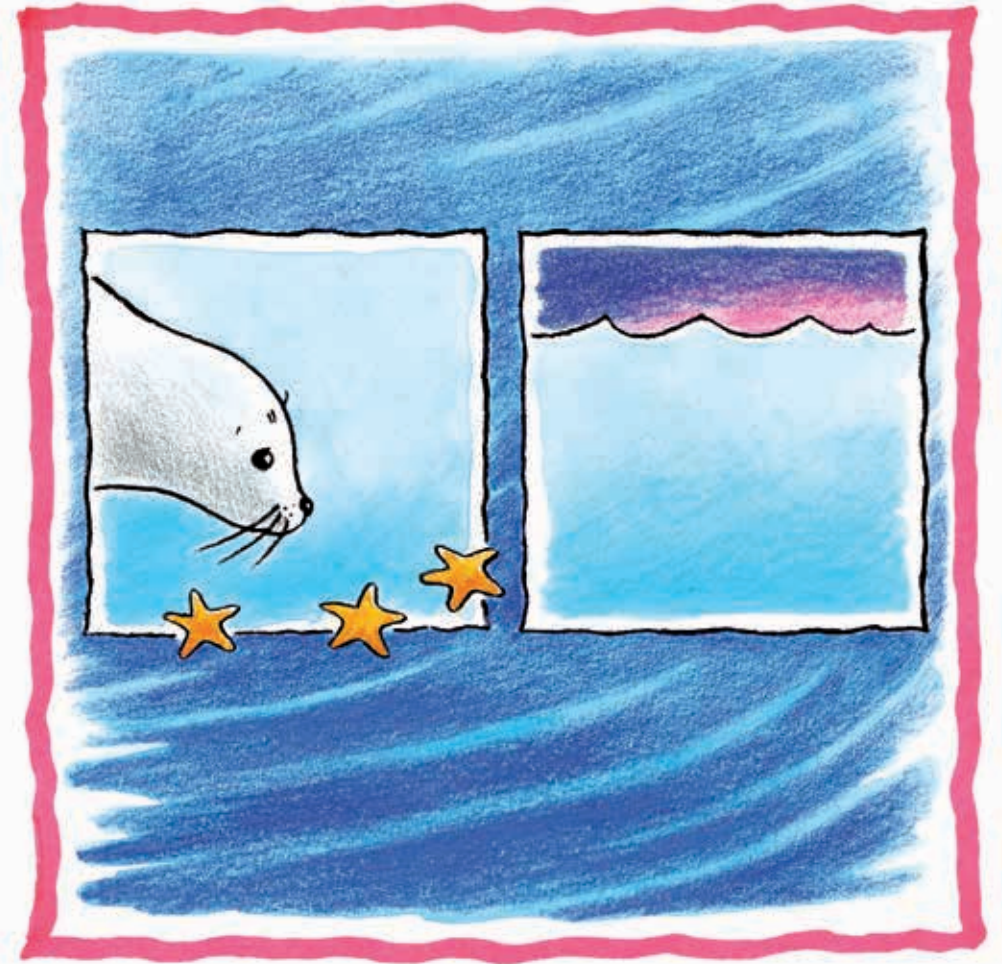
Suddenly they realise it's getting dark.  
They see the lighthouse beam swoop over.



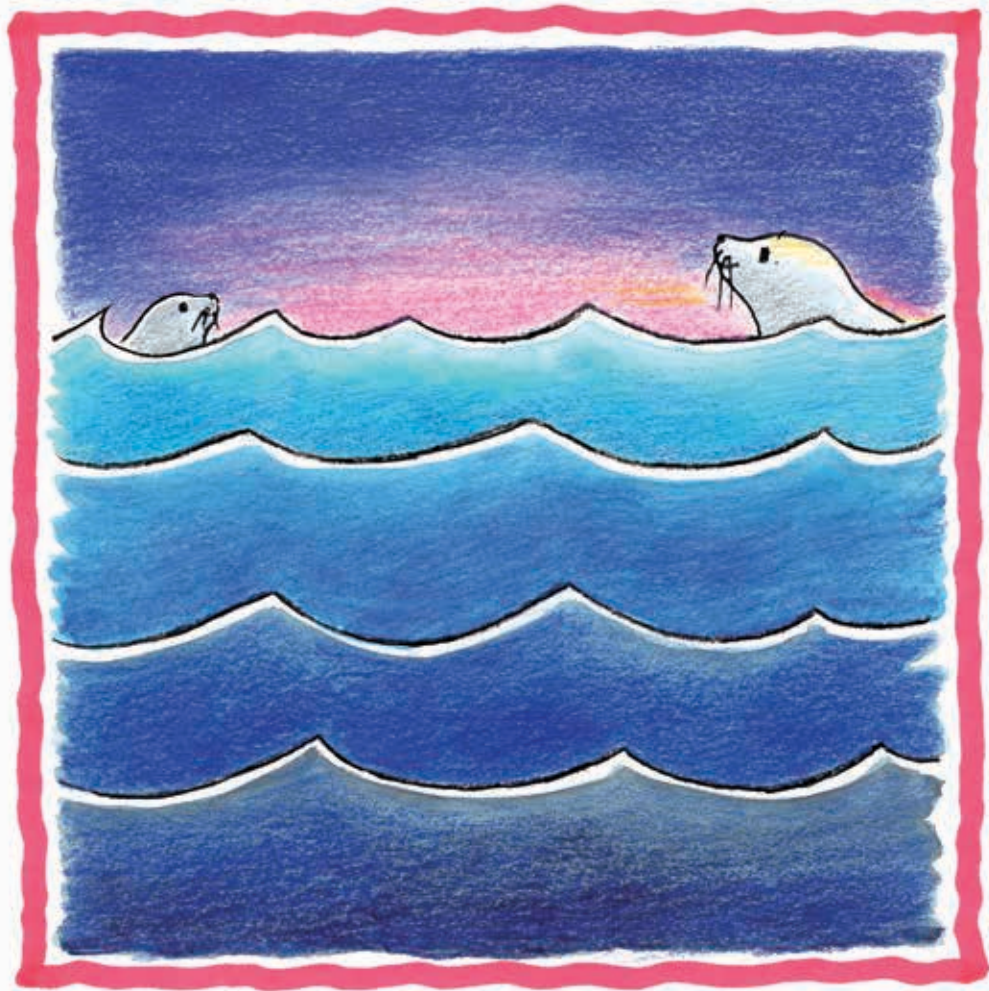
Suddenly the sea seems so big! Jamie gets scared.  
"I want to go back to mum!" he yells.  
But which way should he go?



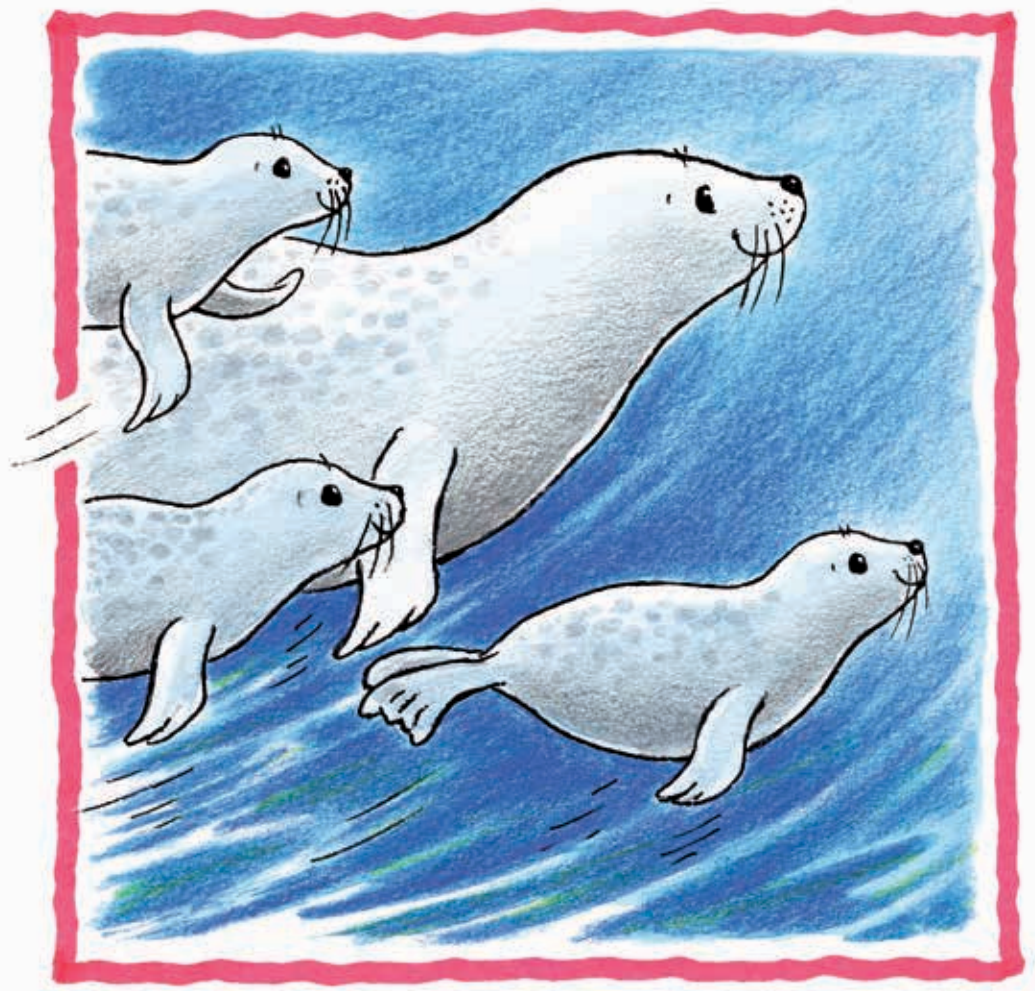
“Hey fish, do you know where my mum is?” Jamie asks.  
But the fish doesn’t answer,  
and the jelly fish doesn’t know either.



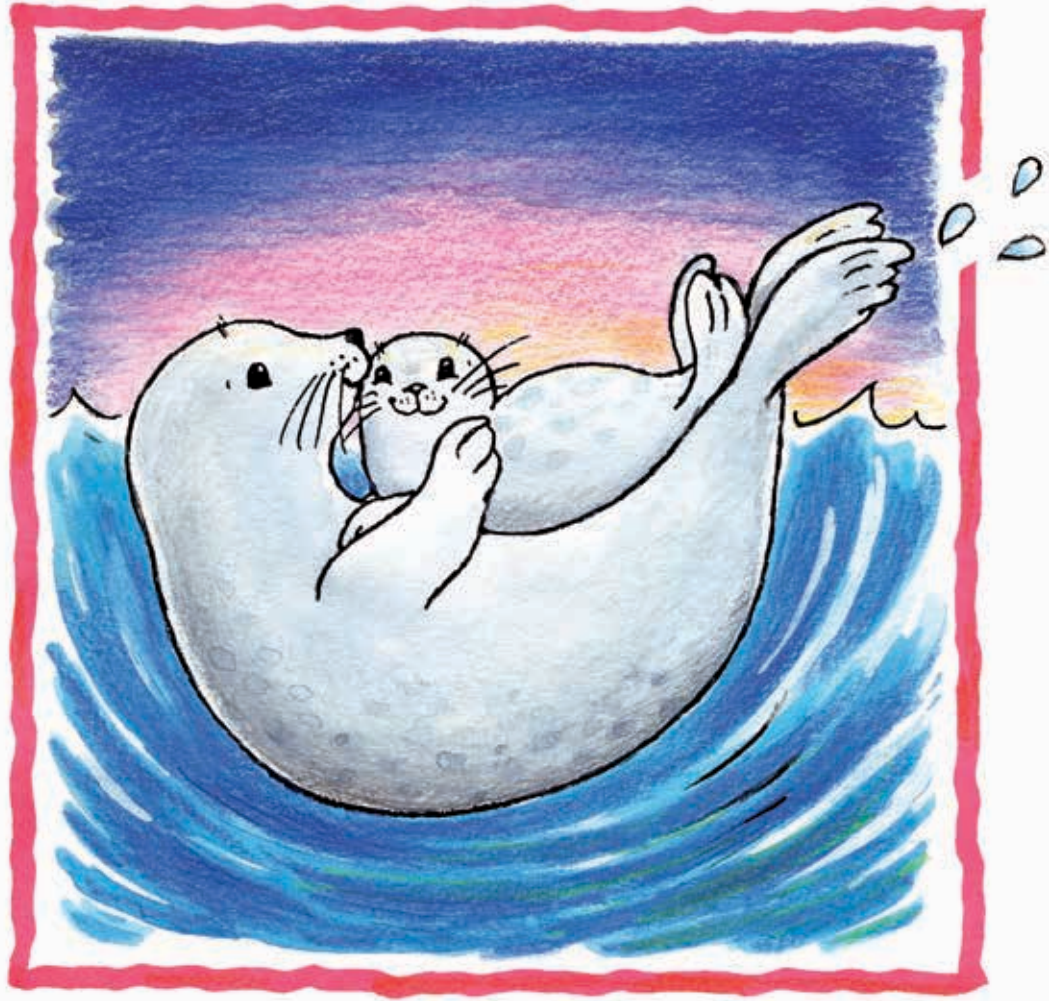
“Mum!” Jamie calls, frightened.  
But he doesn’t see her anywhere,  
just starfishes and a lot of water.



Suddenly he hears: "Jamie!"  
Hooray, it's mum!  
Happy, Jamie and his friends swim over to his mum.



"Let's get back home," mum says.  
Together they swim back  
to the sandbank.



“Oh, I’m so glad you’re back!”  
Mum gives Jamie a wet sealy kiss.  
And Jamie? He loves it.





## What's the deal with seals?

There are 30 different species of seal in the world. Most of them live around the North and the South Pole.

Common seals (Jamie is one of those) are born during low tide on sandbanks or on rocky islands. Their fur is made up of short hairs. This is important, because when the tide comes in, they have to be able to swim immediately. With long-haired fur, this would be too hard.

The mother nurses her young for 4 weeks and takes good care of it. At birth, the pup weighs 9 kilograms and, thanks to its mother's fat-rich milk, in that short time it will reach the 30 kilogram mark!

Young seals can survive independently after a month. Then the mother leaves it to fend for itself. Catching and swallowing fish is something the seals have to learn on their own. Thanks to the milk they have enough reserves to give them plenty of time to get the hang of it.

The common seal can stay under water for up to 20 minutes, eats 5 kilograms of fish a day and reaches adulthood at the age of 4. Seals can live for over 30 years and weigh 80 to 120 kilograms. Their layer of blubber is about 6 cm and they can reach 30 km per hour at top speed.



