The Girl and the Little Seal
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On a bright Saturday morning, the girl pulled on her sunny yellow raincoat and red rubber boots. She packed her canvas satchel with a snack and a water bottle. Today was a beach day! She could already smell the salty sea air. Her parent smiled and said, 'Ready for an adventure?' The girl nodded, her hazel eyes sparkling with excitement.

The beach was wide and golden, with gentle waves rolling in like a soft lullaby. The girl ran ahead, her chestnut-brown hair bouncing in the breeze. She loved the feel of sand between her fingers and the cry of the gulls overhead. 'Stay close,' her parent called, carrying a canvas tote bag. The girl waved and promised to stay nearby.

Suddenly, the girl stopped. There, on the sand, was a little seal! It was small and plump, about the length of her arm, with silvery-grey fur and darker speckles. Its big dark eyes looked up calmly, and its whiskered snout twitched. The girl gasped. 'Oh! A baby seal!' She wanted to run over and hug it, but something made her pause.

Her parent knelt beside her, speaking softly. 'That's a seal pup resting,' they explained. 'Seals need space and quiet to stay safe. If we get too close, it might get scared and try to go back to the water before it's ready.' The girl nodded, her freckles bunching as she frowned thoughtfully. 'So we should watch from here?' she asked. 'Exactly,' her parent said.

The girl noticed a wooden sign nearby. It showed a picture of a seal and said, 'Please keep your distance.' She read it aloud, then looked around. There were other signs too, about not feeding wildlife and keeping dogs on leashes. 'These signs help people know what to do,' her parent said. The girl traced the letters with her finger. 'They keep seals safe,' she whispered.

Just then, a family with a barking dog started walking toward the seal. The girl's heart thumped. 'Oh no! They might scare it!' she cried. Her parent nodded. 'We can kindly remind them about the signs.' The girl took a deep breath and walked over. 'Excuse me,' she said politely, 'the seal needs space. See the sign? We should watch from far away.'

The family looked at the sign and then at the seal. 'You're right,' the mother said. 'Thank you for reminding us.' They moved back, and the dog stopped barking. The little seal lifted its head, then settled back down, safe and calm. The girl felt a warm glow inside. 'Being kind works better than shouting,' her parent said with a smile.

The girl watched the seal for a long time. It stretched its flippers and yawned, showing tiny teeth. 'It's so cute,' she whispered. 'I wish everyone knew how to keep seals safe.' Her parent agreed. 'Many people just don't know. That's why signs help.' The girl's hazel eyes lit up. 'Then we should make more signs!' she said. 'Friendly ones!'

Back home, the girl spread out paper, paints, and markers on the kitchen table. She painted a big grey seal with huge dark eyes. She wrote in bright letters: 'Please give seals space. They need rest.' Her parent helped with the tricky words. They made five signs, each with a different picture and message. The girl's round face beamed with pride.

The next day, they returned to the beach with the signs and some wooden stakes. The girl carried her handmade signs carefully in her satchel. 'Where should we put them?' she asked. Her parent pointed to the path where visitors walked. 'Near the entrance, so people see them right away.' The girl chose a spot close to the seal's resting place, but far enough away.

With her parent's help, the girl hammered the stakes into the sand. She placed each sign so it faced the path. One sign said, 'Quiet please—seal resting.' Another showed a child watching from a distance with a heart. The girl stepped back to admire her work. 'Do you think people will read them?' she asked. 'I think they will,' her parent said. 'They're bright and friendly.'

Soon, visitors began to arrive. A boy pointed at the signs and read them aloud. 'Look, a seal! We have to stay back.' His little sister nodded. Others stopped to read and smiled. The girl watched from a distance, her heart swelling. 'It's working!' she whispered. The little seal lifted its head, blinked its big dark eyes, and then curled up again, undisturbed.

A woman with a camera started to walk closer, but then she saw the sign. 'Oh, I didn't know,' she said. She stepped back and took a photo from afar. The girl felt proud. 'My signs are helping!' she told her parent. 'You had a great idea,' her parent said, giving her a hug. 'Safe observation protects wildlife.' The girl repeated the words softly, liking how they sounded.

As the sun began to set, the girl packed up her paints and extra signs. She looked back at the little seal, still resting peacefully on the sand. 'Goodnight, seal,' she whispered. 'I'll keep you safe.' Her parent took her hand. 'You did a wonderful thing today,' they said. The girl smiled, her freckles dancing in the golden light. She felt warm and happy inside.

On the way home, the girl thought about the seal's big dark eyes and soft grey fur. She thought about the signs and how they helped people learn. 'Can we come back tomorrow?' she asked. 'Of course,' her parent said. 'And maybe we can make even more signs for other beaches.' The girl's hazel eyes sparkled. 'Yes! Signs for every beach!'

That night, the girl fell asleep dreaming of seals and signs. She knew that even a small person with a big heart could make a difference. The little seal stayed happy and healthy on the beach, and visitors learned to watch from a distance. And the girl? She felt proud, knowing that safe observation protects wildlife—and that kindness always finds a way.