

# Zach Apologizes

**By:** William Mulcahy

**Script by:** Olivia Greenman & Maggie Haas

Characters (6): Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Zach, Alex, Mom, All (Zach's thoughts)

---

## Scene 1:

Narrator 1: Alex was playing with Zach's robo-rocket cruiser... **again**. It made Zach so mad he forgot all about his manners and pushed his little brother down.

Zach: (Yelling) It's mine!

*\*We see Alex sitting on the floor after being pushed by his brother.*

Alex: (Softly cries) You pushed me!

Zach: Well **you** started it!

Mom: **Enough!** (pause) Zach, give me the spaceship and go cool down.

## Scene 2:

Narrator 1: Zach went to his room. He knew he'd hurt his brother, but he didn't want to think about it. He played with his toys, but it wasn't any fun.

All: (whisper) Not gonna think about it.

Narrator 2: He tried reading his favorite book, but he couldn't concentrate.

All: (whisper) Not gonna think about it.

Narrator 1: He threw paper pace cruisers around the room, but all they did was crash and crumple.

All: (whisper) Not gonna think about it.

Narrator 2: After a while, Zach gave up. He felt too scrambled up inside to do anything. Then he heard a knock at the door.

*\*Mom enters room after knocking.*

Mom: How are you feeling?

Narrator 1: She could tell he was upset about what happened.

Mom: I think I can help. I want to show you how to apologize.

Zach: Apologize? Do I have to?

Mom: It always makes **me** feel better. Besides, I know you can handle this. It's called the four-square apology.

*\*Mom hands Zach a pencil. She showed him how to do the four-square apology.*

Mom: You have to think really hard about what happened, and then fill in each of these squares. You can write or draw. In the first square, write or draw what you did to hurt Alex.

Narrator 2: Zach thought about what happened. (pause) What did he do to hurt Alex?

*\*Zach writes on the first square "Pushed Alex Down".*

Mom: In the next square, you have to say how you think it made him feel.

Narrator 1: This was hard. Until now, Zach had only thought about how **he** felt. How would it feel to be shoved by your brother?

Narrator 2: Finally, he remembered the look on Alex's face. Zach had made him cry.

*\*Zach writes on the second square "Sad and hurt".*

Mom: (points to square number three) What could you do next time instead of pushing? After you think of a good idea, draw or write it in this square.

*\*Zach thinking of some ideas.*

All: (whisper) Just grab my toys and run. (pause) Take something of his and promise to break it unless he gives back my robo – rocket cruiser.

Narrator 1: But those were just pretend ideas. Zach knew a better answer.

Zach: That’s easy! Ask for the toy.

Narrator 2: His dad always reminded him to use his words. Sometimes it was hard to remember when he was mad, though.

Mom: One left. The last square is about how you can make it up to him.

Zach: Make it up?

Mom: Pushing him down hurt him- that was **wrong**. What can you do to make things **right** again?

Zach: I don’t know.

Narrator 1: (whisper) What did she mean? He couldn’t go back in a time machine and chance what he did.

Mom: Maybe you could do something special for him. Like do his chore for the week.

Narrator 2: Zach already had chores. He didn’t want to feed the dog, too.

*\*Zach gets an idea! He writes on the fourth square, “Do you want to play with the robo-rocket cruiser?”*

*\*Mom looks over Zach’s four-square apology.*

Mom: I think Alex will appreciate this. When you're ready, put your apology into action. You can take the sheet with you. (pause) And remember, Zach. You're a good person even though you did something wrong.

### Scene 3:

Narrator 1: Zach went over his four squares again. He decided he was ready. Zach felt his heart bumping in his chest. This was not going to be easy. What is Alex laughed at him? What if Zach's apology didn't make either of them feel better?

Narrator 2: He gripped the paper tightly and remembered what his mom said about being a good person even if you do something wrong. He was glad she said that.

*\*Zach walks over to his brother.*

Zach: Alex, I'm sorry for pushing you down. I hurt you and that was wrong. Next time I will ask for what I want instead of pushing.

*\*Zach looks down and checks his paper once again to remind himself what came next.*

Zach: Do you want to play with the robo-rocket cruiser and some of my other ships?

Alex: (thinks for a second) Can we play **together**?

Zach: Does that mean you accept my apology?

*\*Alex nods his head and then hugs Zach.*

Zach: Then let's go outside!

Alex: Can I be the alien?

Zach: Sure!