

The Adventures of

Lil' Sharon and Agile Cheetah

Living your best life (through Agile / Scrum Values)



The Datto Scrum Team

Lil' Sharon



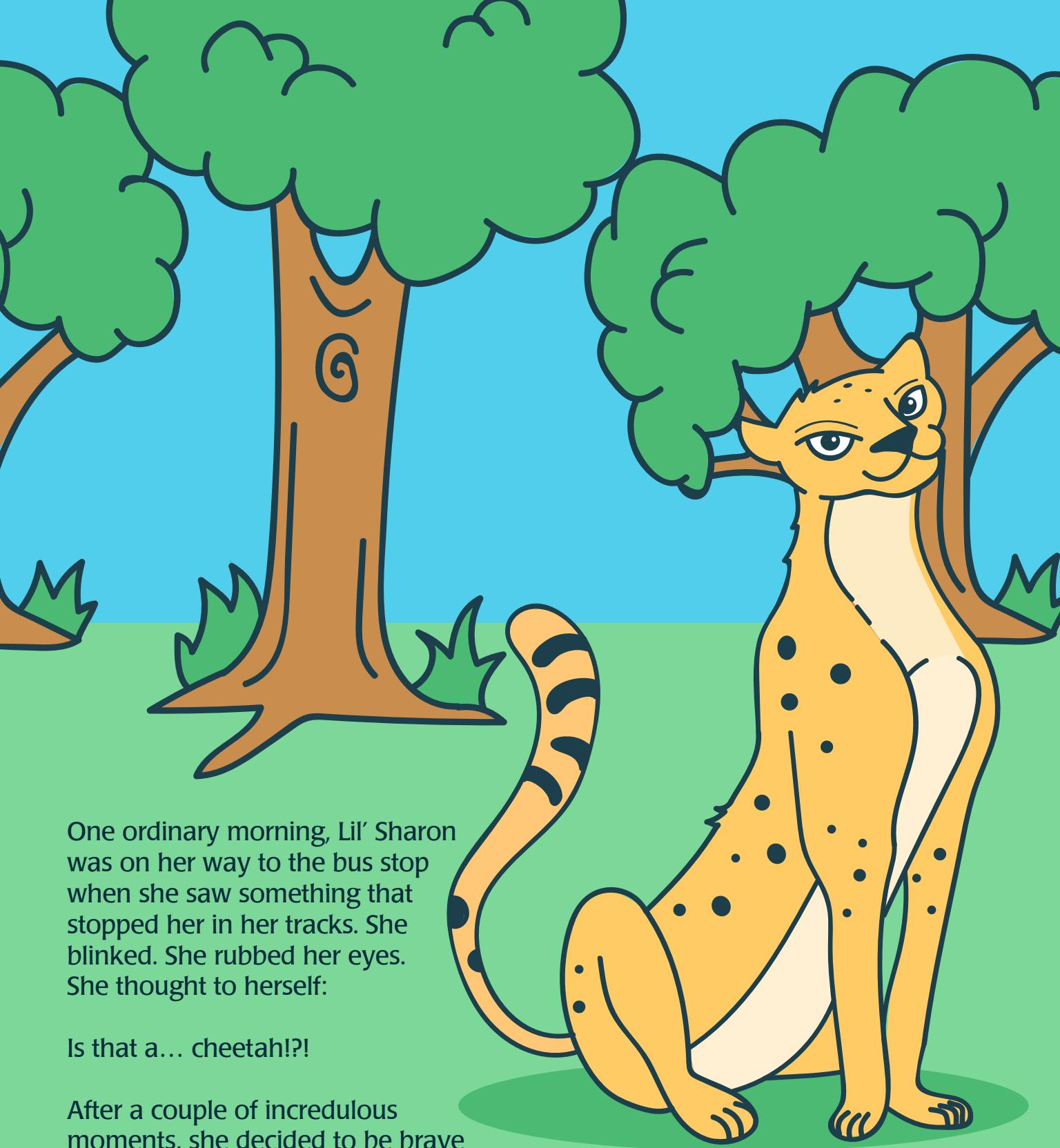
Agile Cheetah





Lil' Sharon was feeling overwhelmed. She had a lot on her plate to balance! She had long days at school, where she served as a mentor to fellow classmates (she was quite organized and helpful). She had guitar practice and songs to write for her awesome band, Follow Stones. She had house chores. On top of all this, she had a wide assortment of other activities she wanted time to do. It was clear:

Lil' Sharon needed help to keep everything moving!



One ordinary morning, Lil' Sharon was on her way to the bus stop when she saw something that stopped her in her tracks. She blinked. She rubbed her eyes. She thought to herself:

Is that a... cheetah?!?

After a couple of incredulous moments, she decided to be brave and take a closer look!

As she got closer, she decided the best option was to introduce herself. After all, it's not every day that one meets a Cheetah.

"Hi little guy," she said.

"I'm Lil' Sharon. What's your name?"

In a friendly tone, he replied...

"My name is Agile Cheetah. I'm so fast that you haven't seen me following you around. I'm here to show you how to better manage your busy life and take control of your time. There are 5 things that I can help you with."



Lil' Sharon was dubious.

How can this Cheetah help her? Is she really talking to a feline? After a momentary pause, she decided to take the leap.

"Where do we start, Agile Cheetah?"





"First," said the cheetah, "you need to have COURAGE! I know that you've been thinking about running for Class President. I could tell that you were nervous about it because it can be a tough job to have."

Lil' Sharon said, "I really want to help out my school. I have some really great ideas. But, it's scary to have that responsibility! And where will I find the time?"

"COURAGE is all about doing the right thing and working on tough problems," said Agile Cheetah. "Just think about the positive impact you'll make for your school and your friends!"

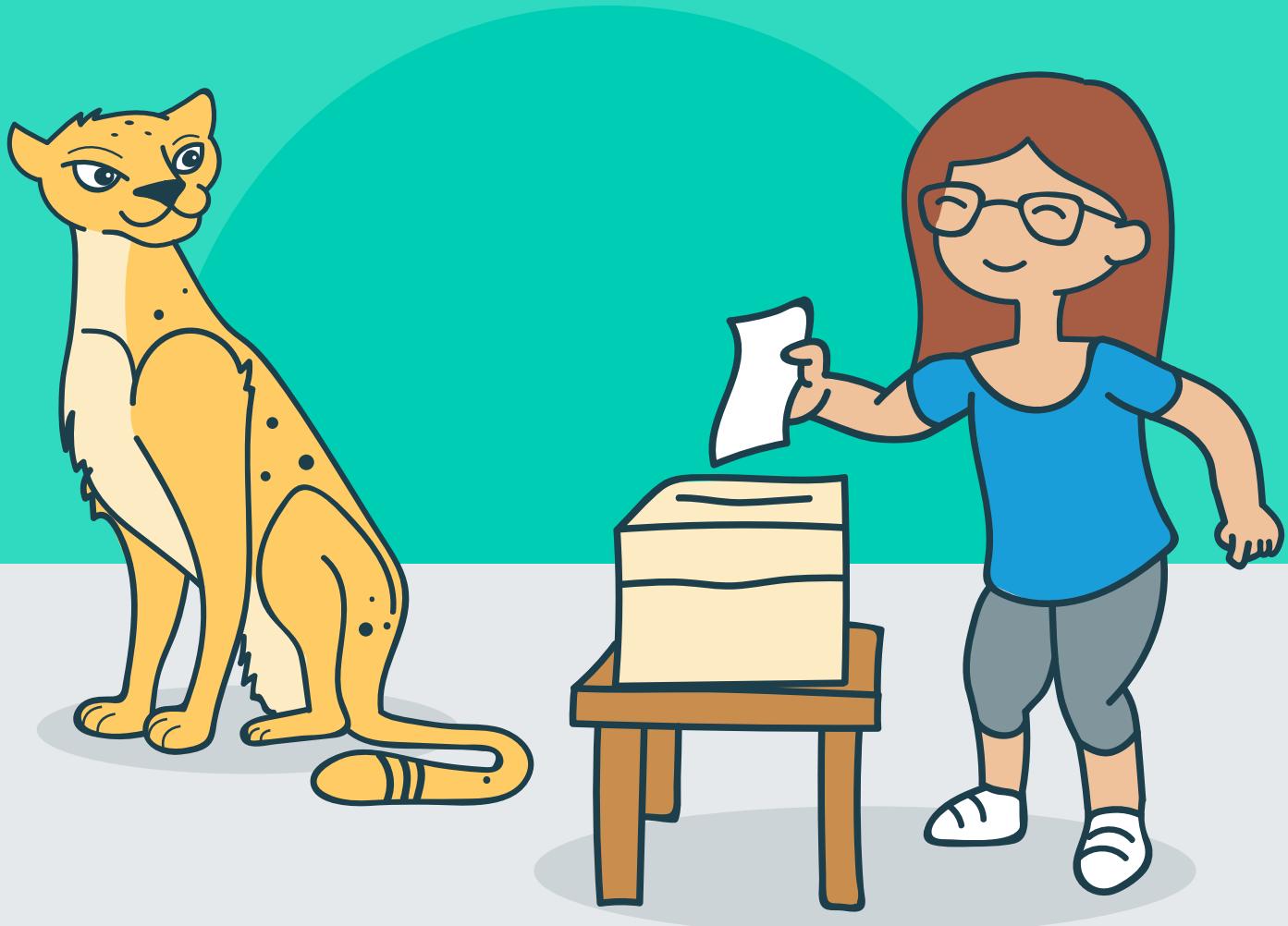
Lil' Sharon exclaimed...

"You're right Agile Cheetah—I want to step up and do the right thing! It may seem scary right now—but I think I'll be able to help a lot of people and make a positive contribution!"

Agile Cheetah was impressed with her gumption. He said...

"Remember that the future may look intimidating—and it might be scary you when you first start something new—but you can rely on your friends and family to help you out. COURAGE is all about knowing that doing the right thing, especially the right thing when the problem is tough, will lead to something great!"





Lil' Sharon decided to take the leap—so when the bus pulls up to the Bus Stop, she gets on, followed close behind by Agile Cheetah.

The minute she gets to school, she rushes over to the Principal's Office and signs up to be an official candidate for Class President!

Shortly after throwing her hat in the ring, Lil' Sharon starts to feel anxious. "What's wrong?" asked Agile Cheetah. "You were courageous today. However, I sense that you're nervous."

"I have so much going on," said Lil Sharon. "My art project, studying for finals, reading one book each month for English, practicing guitar, writing a song for an upcoming competition, chores, hanging with friends, watching TV, playing with my cat..."





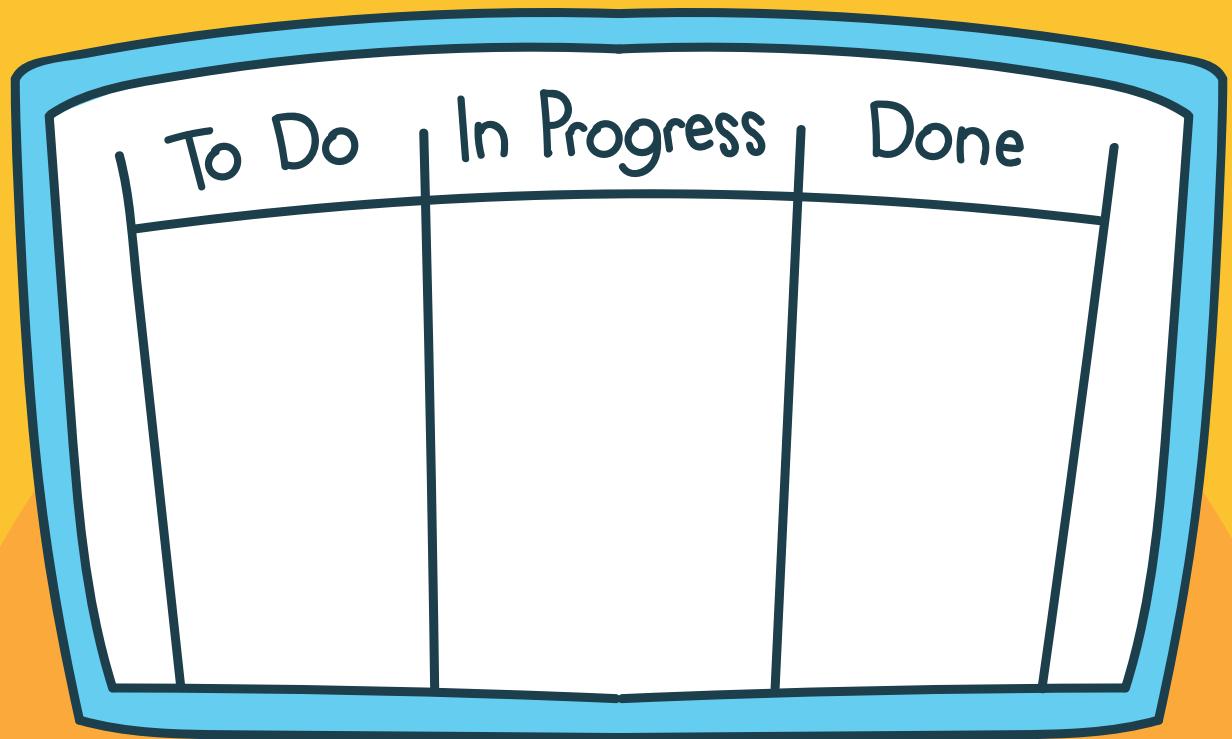
"Let me stop you there," said Agile Cheetah. "Those are all important things for you, but we need to break those things down so that you're not thinking about everything all at once. The best thing to do is FOCUS on what's important now and prioritize your wants and needs."

"But how can I do that?"

Agile Cheetah diverted Lil' Sharon into the Art Room and found a bunch of colorful Post-It Notes on the table.

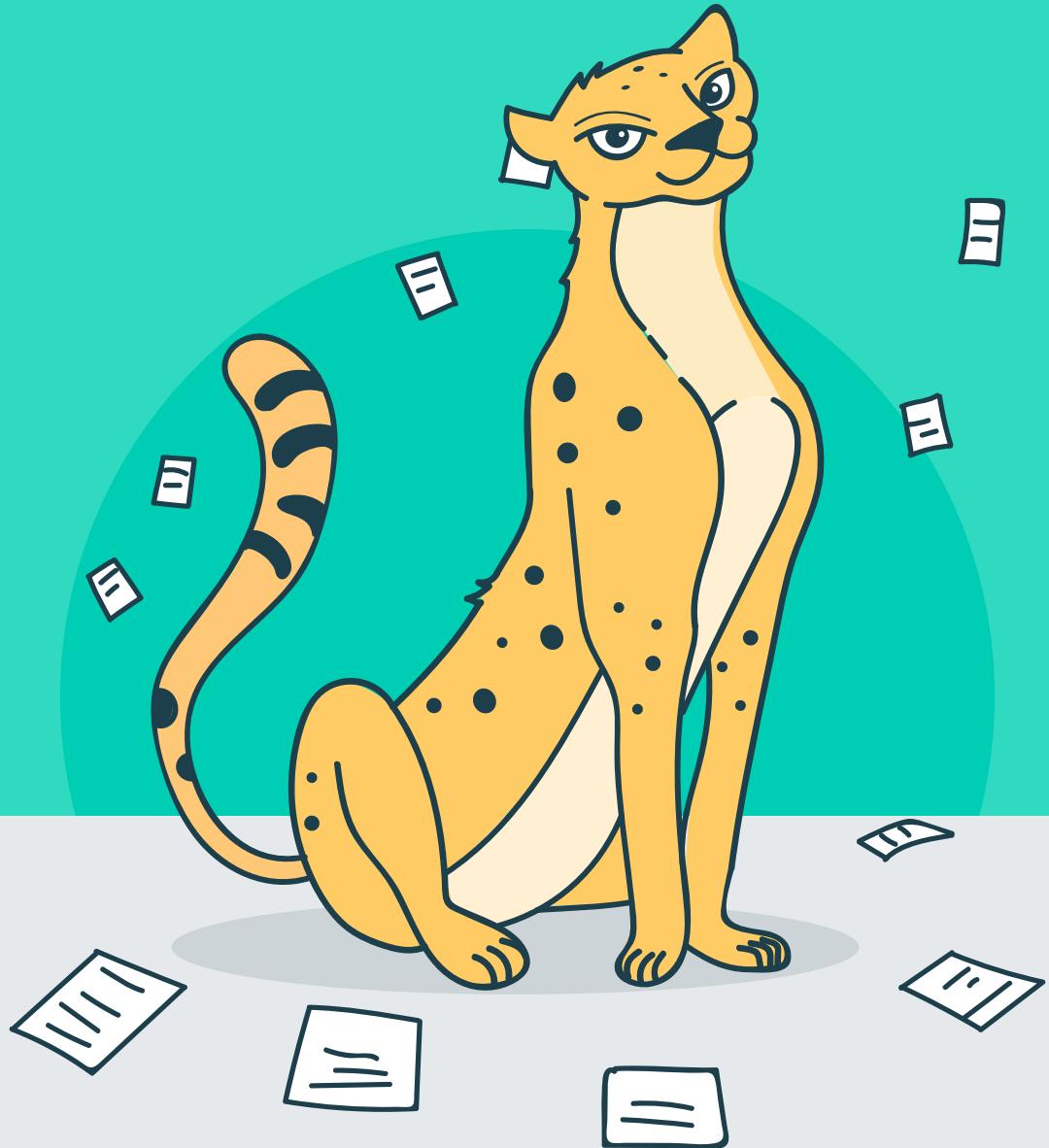
"Let me show you how to use a Kanban Board," he said.

"A what?" Lil' Sharon asked.



Agile Cheetah took everything that Lil' Sharon said she had on her plate and wrote them each on a different Post-It. He grabbed a marker in his paw and headed to the whiteboard. Next, he drew 3 columns.

"A Kanban Board is a great way to keep track of what you have on your plate. It helps you FOCUS on what's important now, but it also helps to keep track of what's still left, but a lower priority."



Agile Cheetah started by asking Lil' Sharon what needed to be done ASAP, what could wait for a little bit, and what could be pushed off for the future. By the time they went through all of her needs and wants, the cheetah had prioritized everything she had on her plate from the top-down.

"Wow!" exclaimed Lil' Sharon. "I have a ton on my plate, but I guess it doesn't all need to be worked on right now."

Agile Cheetah nodded. "That's the power of FOCUS," he said. "You should spend time on what needs to be done first and then continue focusing on new tasks as you wrap up current ones."



Lil' Sharon stepped back from the board. She realized that things weren't as overwhelming as she originally thought.

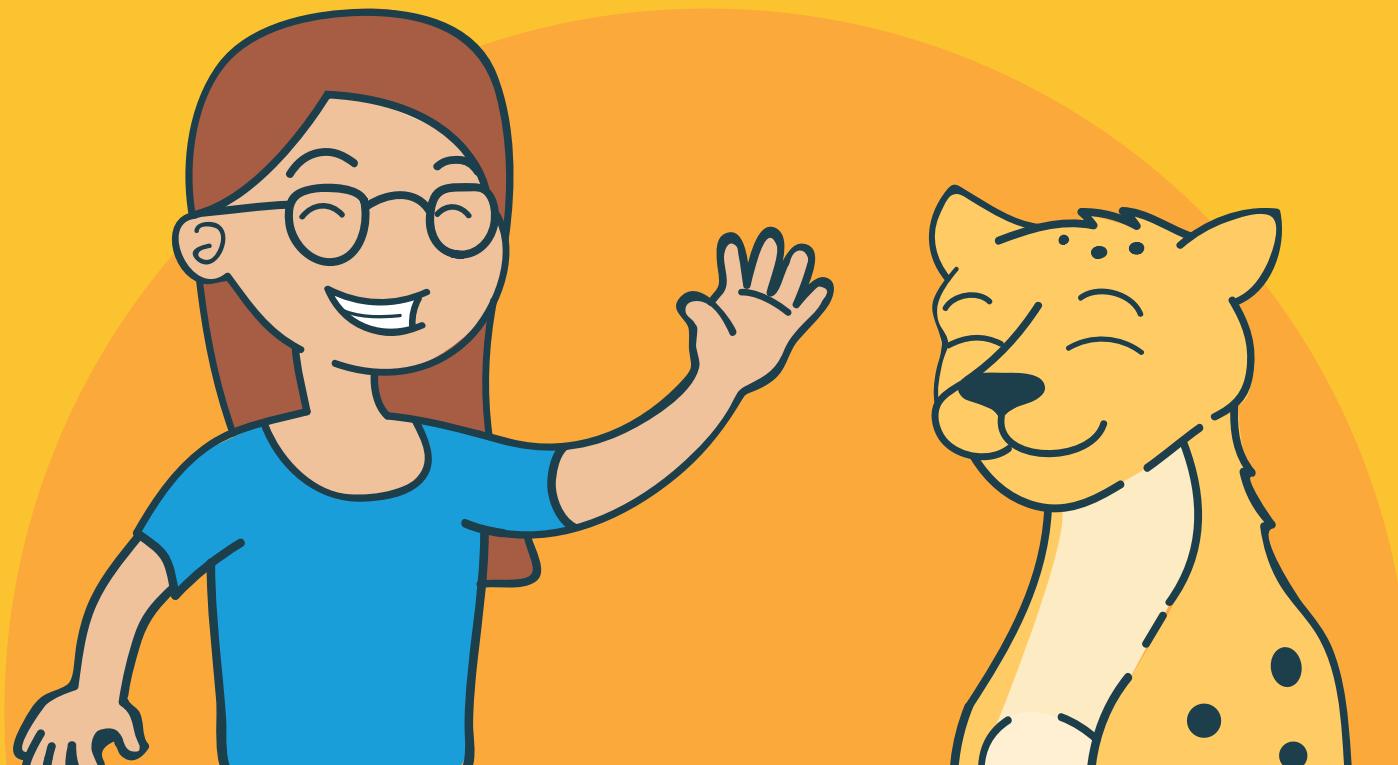
The rest of the day went along pretty smoothly. But as the end of the day approached, she wondered how her organized list of priorities would get done.

"Agile Cheetah," she said. "I'm a little nervous to start. Is there a good way to give myself a little boost and calm my nerves?"

"Yes," said Agile Cheetah. "There absolutely is! COMMITMENT!"

Lil' Sharon was a tad confused and asked, "What do you mean by COMMITMENT?"

"Well," said Agile Cheetah, "The best way to get things done is to commit to getting them done. Personally committing to achieving your goals is the best way to hold yourself accountable. It's also nice to get commitment from others. If you need to rely on other people to get things done, get their COMMITMENT as well. The more you can get everyone, including yourself, on-board with a goal, the better it will be in the long-run. Whether you're a team of many or a team of one, COMMITMENT is key!"





Lil' Sharon, right there and then, committed to her goals and to the process of getting them done! By the time the school day was over, Lil' Sharon felt much more confident she could tackle all the things on her plate. She felt confident in herself as well.

The bus ride home, with her new friend Agile Cheetah, was a fun trip! Lots of laughing with friends and a general sense of optimism! But when Lil' Sharon got home and re-created her Kanban Board, she started to get nervous again. She thought to herself, what if I can't do this?

Agile Cheetah saw the concern on Lil' Sharon's face and quickly pounced into action. Cheetah's are known for their quick pouncing after all.

Agile Cheetah asked, "Why are you looking so worried?"

"What if I can't do all of this?" said Lil' Sharon. "What if I can't get the help I need?"

"That's when you need to focus on RESPECT," he said. "You need to RESPECT yourself and others to be capable and independent."



Lil' Sharon still had a quizzical look on her face, so Agile Cheetah dug in a little deeper.

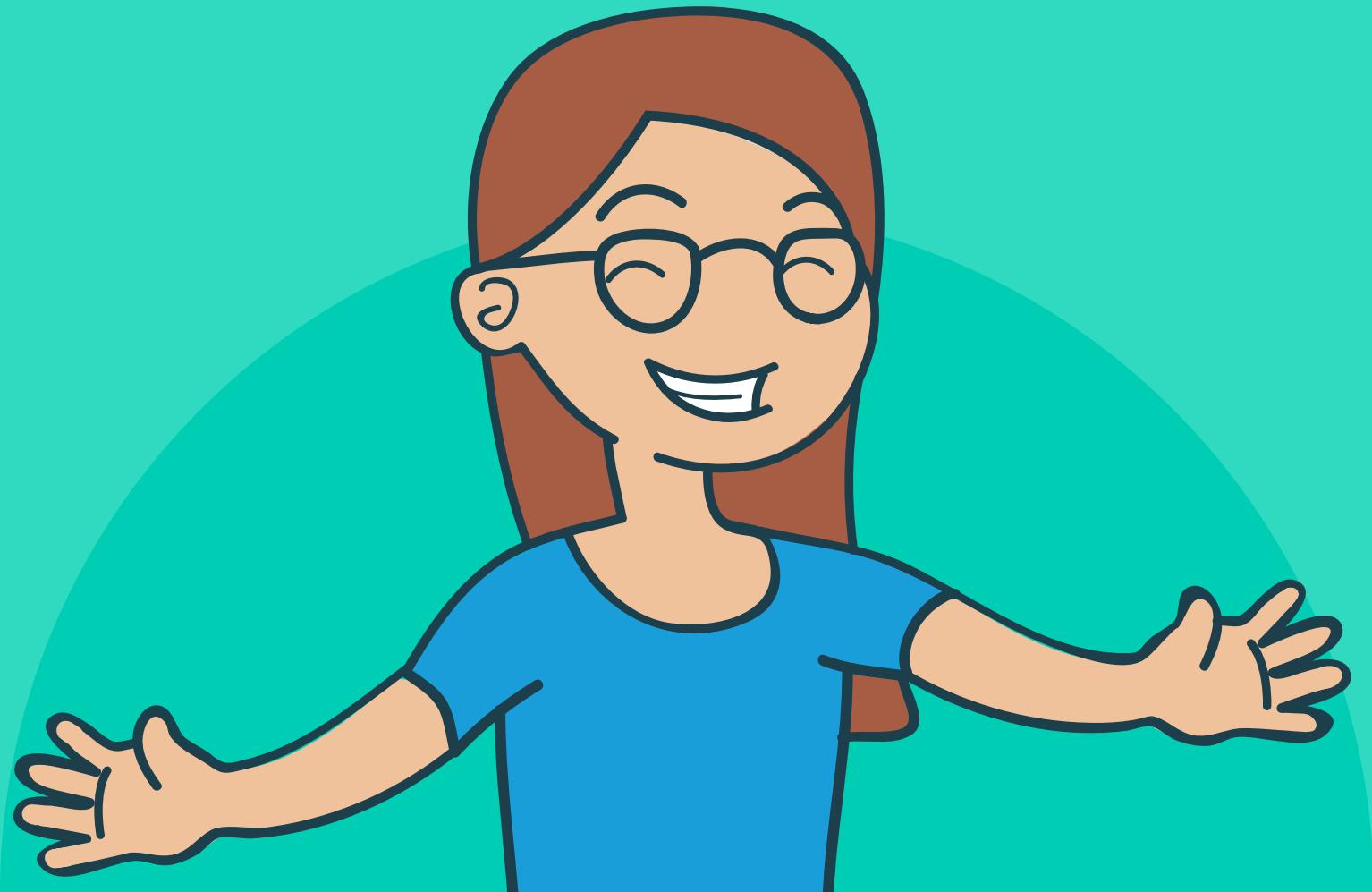
"I know that we haven't known each other for very long, but you've been listening to me and I've been listening to you. Over the course of today, we've developed RESPECT for each other. We're helping each other out and we're trusting that we have each others' best interests at heart. By strengthening this RESPECT, we're both getting value from each other that we may not have gotten just by ourselves."



Suddenly Lil' Sharon smiled and said, "You're right! I RESPECT what you've been telling me because I know that you're capable and qualified. Therefore, I believe that you have my best interests at heart."

"That's absolutely right! While RESPECT needs to be earned, you also need to rely on you and your team's capabilities to add value."

Lil' Sharon was so happy with how Agile Cheetah continued to take all of her worries and turned them into learning points. Everything seemed to be settling into place. She felt like she was ready to tackle her goals.

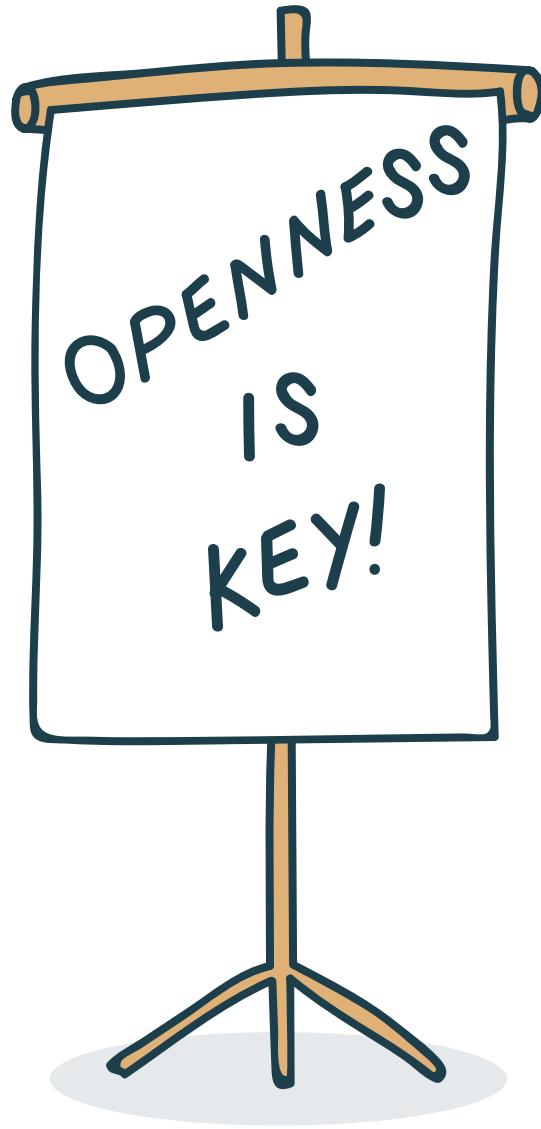
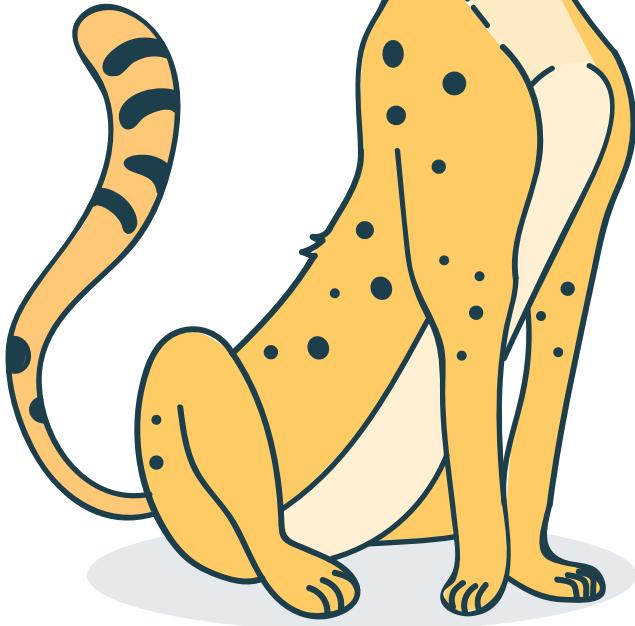


Agile Cheetah smiled and thought it would be awesome to tell Lil' Sharon that she was actually already living the last value of Scrum. In fact, it's one of the most important benefits.

"All day, you've been honest with me about what you've been feeling. Your OPENNESS has been very impressive!"

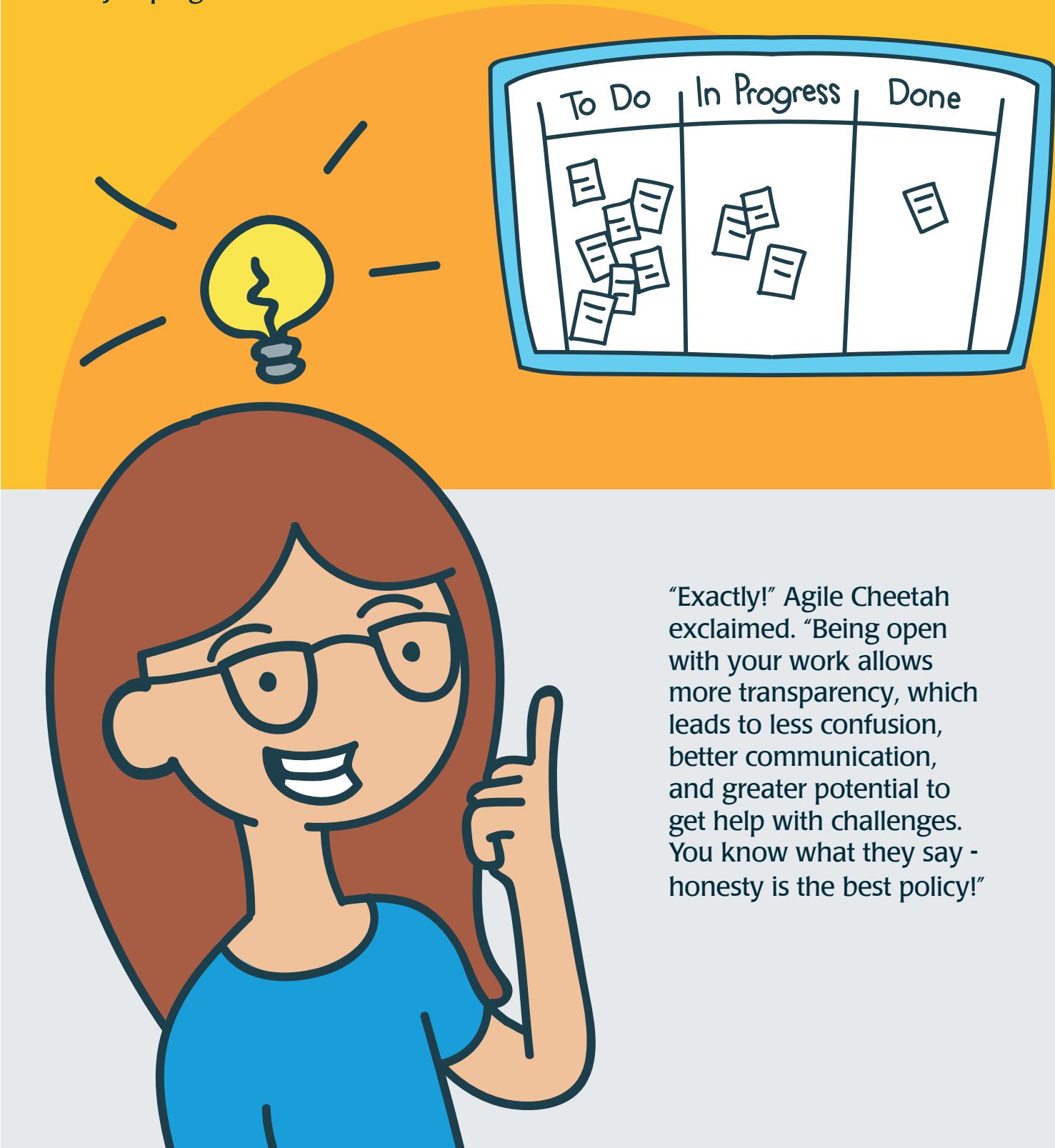
"What do you mean?" asked Lil' Sharon. "I didn't realize that I was doing anything special."





"OPENNESS is key to almost everything we do in life," he said. "Being open and honest about everything on your plate—the good and the bad, the successes and the failures, the ups and the downs—is important to keeping things transparent. If you're struggling, but open and honest about it, you're more likely to get people stepping up to help you out. When we first met, you didn't hide your frustrations or stress. That's how I knew that I could bring some value to your life. The more open you and your processes are, the easier it is to communicate and move forward."

Something clicked for Lil' Sharon. "I guess that's a valuable thing about the Kanban Board as well," she said. "It's visible so everyone can see it. This way, everyone knows what I'm doing and if they can help out, they can jump right in!"



"Exactly!" Agile Cheetah exclaimed. "Being open with your work allows more transparency, which leads to less confusion, better communication, and greater potential to get help with challenges. You know what they say - honesty is the best policy!"

As Lil' Sharon drifted off to sleep after a very busy day, she thought about the main values that she learned throughout the day.

COURAGE—Have the courage to do the right thing and work on things that are tough.

FOCUS—Keep focus in mind and limit the scope of what needs to be done.

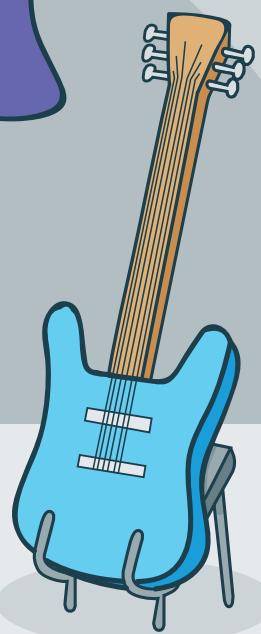
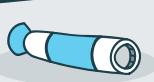
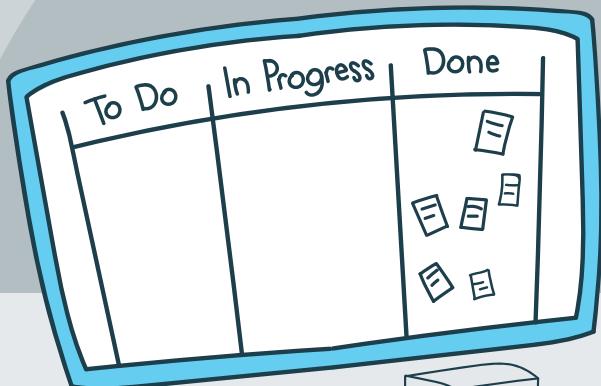
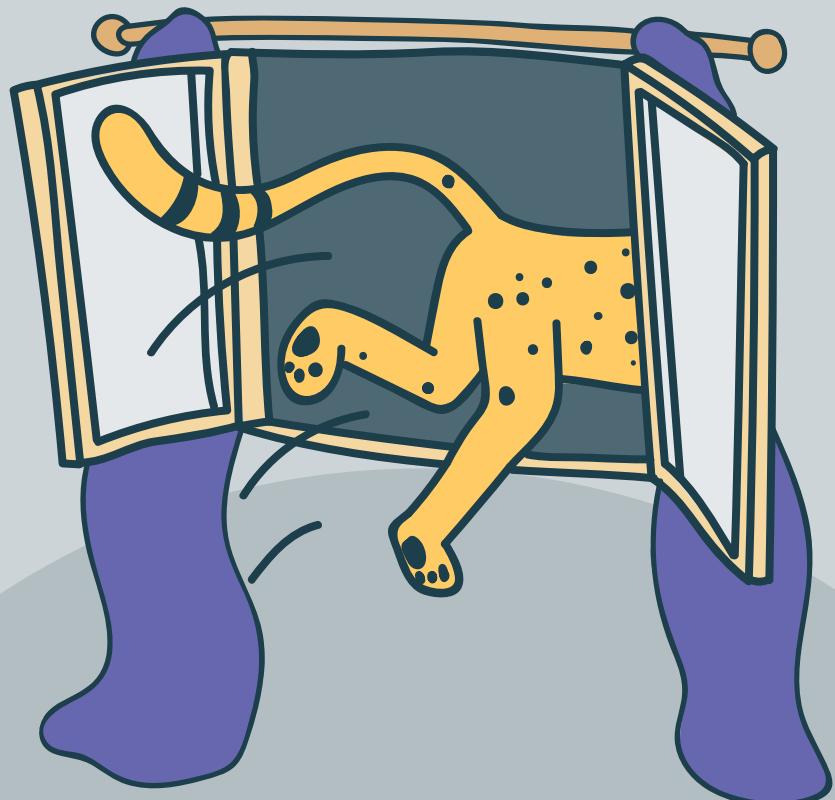
COMMITMENT—Personally commit to achieving your goals, whether you're a team of many or a team of one.

RESPECT—Respect yourself and your team to be fully capable.

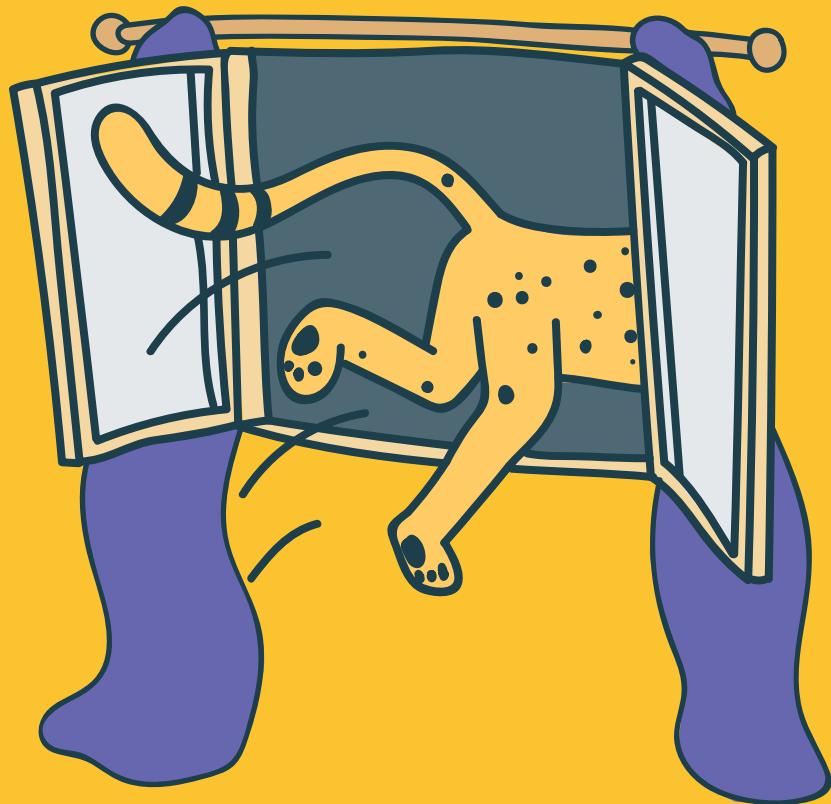
OPENNESS—Be open and honest about all your work and challenges. It's the best way to share your progress and get help.



As Lil' Sharon fell asleep, she whispered, "Thank you Agile Cheetah. Now I feel like I can accomplish anything." Agile Cheetah nuzzled up against Lil' Sharon to give a proper feline goodbye. Then, he sprinted out the window off towards the next Lil' girl or boy who needed help!



The End



datto