Talasia's Special Reward

Written and Illustrated By Lindsey Owrey
Dear Parents/Guardians,

I wrote this book to help you and your child to better understand a behavioral intervention called home-based contracts. Home-based contracts are written agreements between you and your child to help complete an undesirable activity your child may be struggling with. You come up with certain goals together with your child and include fun rewards for following the written agreement. This intervention is a great way for your child to see what is expected of them and what happens when they are successful at reaching their individual goals.

Happy Reading!
~Lindsey Owrey
Hi I’m Talasia! You say my name like this Tah-lay-shah. I’m in 3rd grade at Golden Hill Elementary School. This is my teacher Mrs. Trott.
We are learning to read in school. I love to read. My favorite books are books about animals. One day I hope to work at a zoo.
In math, we are learning how to add and subtract. Math is my least favorite subject. I have trouble finishing my work when it is math time.
Mrs. Trott gives us math homework every Tuesday and Thursday night. I never want to do this homework when I get home.
It is just my mommy and me at home. My mommy gets upset at me because I won’t want to stop reading to do my math homework. We yell a lot on Tuesday and Thursday nights.
My mommy met with Mrs. Trott to talk about how I DO NOT LIKE MATH!!! Mrs. Trott told my mommy about a making something called a contract.
Mrs. Trott says this contract is a piece of paper that has goals listed that I agree to meet. If I meet all my goals my mommy and I come up with, I get certain rewards. If I don't meet my goals, I do not get my rewards.
My mommy and I sat down and came up with goals and rewards to include in the contract. Here is what we came up with:

I **Talasia** agree to do the following at home.

- Complete half of my math problems before dinner time.
- Complete the other half of my math problems before bath time.

I **Talasia’s mom** agree to allow 30 minutes of reading time after each half section is finished. I will help Talasia on any math problems she needs help on.

We have read and discussed this contract in a family meeting on **April 22nd, 2017** and hereby sign to agree to the contract.

X **Talasia**

X **Talasia’s mom**
We each signed the contract and the next day I brought it in to show Mrs. Trott. She thought it was a great idea! We decided to create our own tracking chart in school to motivate me some more to keep up with the contract.
Each night I finish my homework by the goals of the contract I get a sticker on my chart. Mrs. Trott and I agreed once I have 15 stickers I could pick a new book out of her special library.
I really want to get Mrs. Trott’s new elephant book, so I am working hard to meet my goal.
Every Tuesday and Thursday night when I have my math homework, I try hard to finish my homework following the contract my mommy and I came up with. I may not always like to do my math, but I know once I finish I get to read which I LOVE to do!
My mom told me if I reach Mrs. Trott’s goal of 15 stickers, she would take me to the zoo. I want to see the elephants sooooo bad.
This contract helped me to stay focused on what I needed to do and I how I will be rewarded for meeting my goals. I know now when I meet my goals it makes my mommy and Mrs. Trott smile and then I get rewarded with things I like to do too!