

NG NEXTGEN
LEARNERS

Presents:



THINK LIKE A BRAIN!™

Perry the Parietal and the Body Map Bash

Body awareness, touch, space & balance

FREE SAMPLER

For: Parents, Educators, & Co-Regulators

Presented by NGL Press
NextGen Learners LLC
Written By Maisel McLaula



THIS BOOK IS ONE PIECE OF A BIGGER SYSTEM.

Perry the Parietal is part of Think Like a Brain!™

— a structured developmental pathway that walks children (and the adults who love them) through the brain from the bottom up. Each character is a different brain region, and each book is a different layer of how humans regulate, remember, perceive, connect, and grow.

You're not meant to piece this together on your own. The pathway is designed to build in order.

The developmental arc, from the ground up:

Benny the Brainstem — the foundation. Survival, regulation, the automatic body. Start here.

Bella the Cerebellum — balance, movement, rhythm, coordination.

Amy the Amygdala — the alarm system. Big feelings, fear, protection.

Hippocampus Hal — memory, meaning, and the story of "me."

Olly the Occipital Owl — sight, images, imagination, pattern.

Tammy Temporal — sound, language, and the music of a life.

Perry the Parietal — body maps, touch, space, and belonging.

Luna Lefty & Roger Righty — the two hemispheres, logic and art, list-making and daydreaming.

Callie the Connector — the bridge that lets all of it talk. Integration. Whole-brain thinking.

Each book stands on its own. Together, they form a bottom-up, trauma-informed, neurodevelopmentally-sequenced map of the human brain — written for children who are building themselves, and the grown-ups who are building alongside them.

Why the order matters. You cannot teach a child to read a map of the world before their body has a map of itself.

The Think Like a Brain!™ pathway follows the same sequence real children use to grow: regulation first, then relationship, then reasoning. When you read these books in order — or reach for the one your child needs in the moment — you're matching the story to the layer of the brain that's doing the work.

Perry's place on the pathway. Perry sits in the upper sensory layer of the arc, just below the hemispheres and just above the rest of the sensory team. That's because body-in-space awareness — proprioception — is the quiet sense that braids every other input together. A child can only trust where they are once Benny has steadied the brainstem, Bella has tuned up balance, Amy trusts the room is safe, Hal knows the story of today, Olly has mapped what's seen, and Tammy has heard the room. Perry is the sense that answers the deepest childhood question: where does my body end and the world begin?

Disclaimer

A gentle note. The Think Like a Brain!™ series is an educational and emotional literacy companion, not a replacement for medical, psychological, or therapeutic care. These books are grounded in developmental neuroscience and trauma-informed frameworks but are not diagnostic tools, treatment plans, or clinical interventions. If a child in your care is struggling with regulation, mental health, trauma, sensory processing, or development, please reach out to a qualified pediatrician, therapist, occupational therapist, or school counselor. The grown-ups who love a child are always the first and best line of support — and the grown-ups who get trained help are the ones who keep getting stronger at it. Trust yourself. Trust your team. Trust the pathway.

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A QUIET NOTE FROM Maisel McLaula

These free pages are a small taste of something much bigger. Think Like a Brain!™ began as a love letter – to the children I’ve held, taught, and grown alongside, and to the grown-ups who stay up late worrying whether they’re getting it right. Every character, every printable, every breath script, every line of read-aloud guidance was built by hand, tested with real kids, and poured full of the thing I wish every child had: someone who believed their brain was not broken, just building.

Two ways to walk the full pathway:

The books.

Each Think Like a Brain!™ title is a complete story with its own resource pages in the back – read-aloud prompts, age-by-age questions, regulation tools, and the science behind the character, all tucked into the final pages. The books alone are enough. They’re available wherever books are sold

The Activity Packs (like this one).

These 24-page learning expansion packs are a deeper, classroom-and-clinic-ready companion to each book – role-play scripts, sorting mats, body-scan scripts, neurodivergent-affirming adaptations, parent and educator notes, and printables built to be hung, folded, and loved. The Activity Packs are exclusive to online customers at NextGenLearners.com and are not available anywhere else right now.

If this sampler was useful to a child you love, the full **Perry** Activity Pack is \$3 at NextGenLearners.com – and every pack you purchase keeps this small, independent press making more.



With so much love, Maisel McLaula NGL Publishing · NextGenLearners.com



CHARACTER CARD

About Perry

Perry the Parietal is the lively mapmaker of the Brainy Bunch. He lives in the parietal lobes – the parts of the brain on top, just behind the crown of the head – which handle body awareness, touch, spatial thinking, and where each part of you is in space. Every time a child reaches for a cup, steps around a puddle, or notices a tickle on their arm, Perry is on the job.

Perry's personality is energetic, curious, and always moving. He has messy dark hair and bright blue eyes, and he bounces on his toes when he's thinking.

He doesn't sit still – he maps the world by touching it, climbing it, and bumping into it. He's the book every child who feels clumsy, who can't sit still, who loves to wrestle or spin or climb needs to meet – because he shows them their body is not a problem to be solved. It's a map they are still learning to read.

PERRY'S



READ-ALLOUD GUIDE

Before reading: Have the child touch the top of their head, then their elbow, then their left knee. Say, “Meet Perry. He just told you where those things are.”

During reading: Pause when Perry first makes a mess. Ask: Does your body ever feel bigger or smaller than it really is? Does it ever surprise you?

After reading: “Perry is drawing a map of you right now. He drew you yesterday. He’ll draw you when you’re ninety.” Then a slow full-body stretch together.



Perry's Quote of the Day

Your body is not too loud. Your body is the map of you, and the map gets better every single day you use it.

Perry's Promise

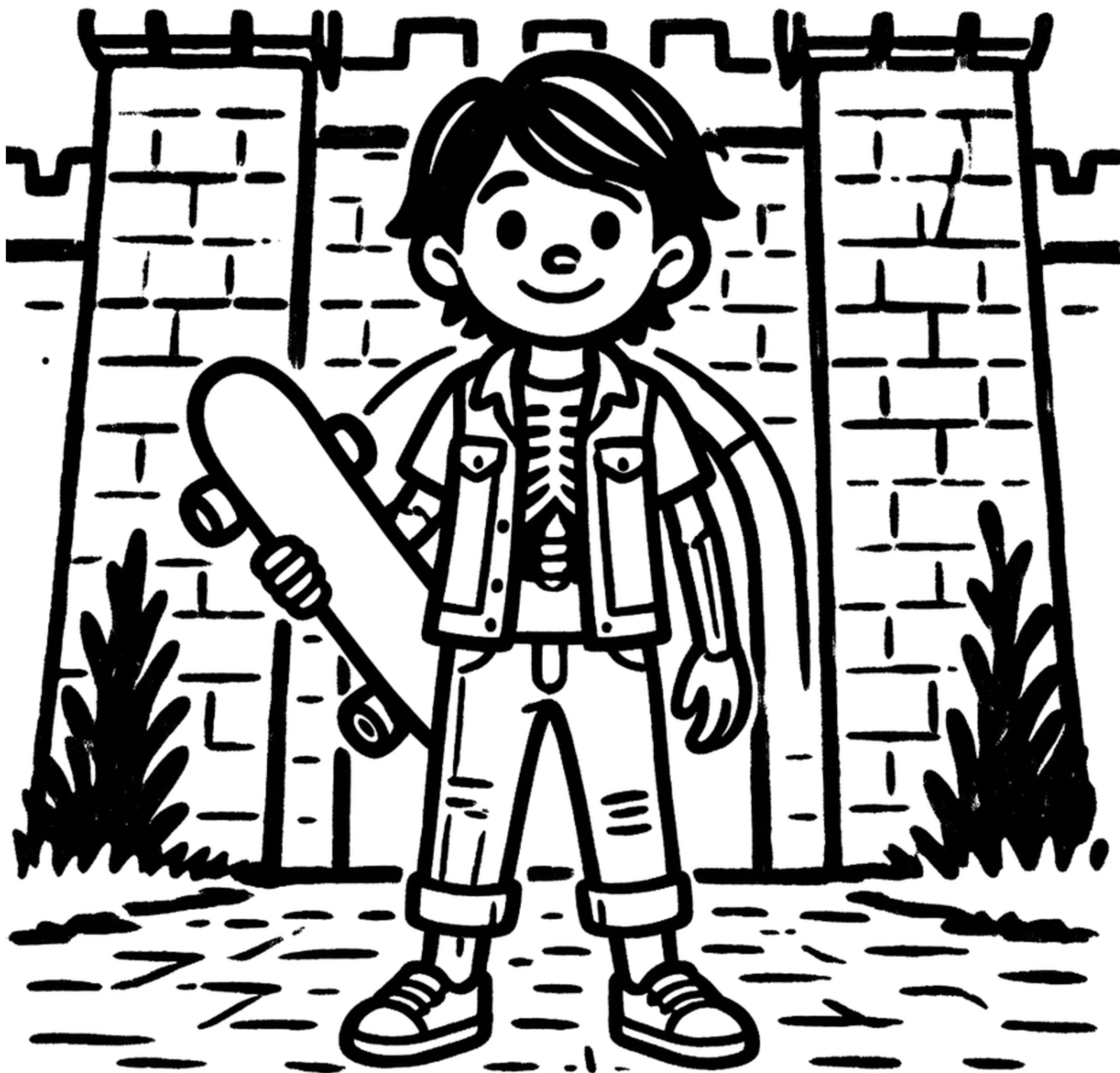


Every child who meets Perry gets the same gift: the knowledge that their body is not too much, their sensations are not a problem to fix, and somewhere inside them a faithful mapmaker has been tracking every inch of them all along.

They were never lost in there.

Perry's Body Map

Color in the place where Perry does his quiet work.



Where does your body feel the tickles and bumps?

THANK YOU



WRITE TO US:

Inspire@NextGenLearners.com – suggest a future book topic. Tell us what story a child in your life is waiting for.

Press@NextGenLearners.com – for authors and creators who'd like to publish their own books with NGL.

Info@NextGenLearners.com – general questions about other collections, products, or the NextGen Learners ecosystem.

Create@NextGenLearners.com – send us your reviews, kid art, drawings, and creations inspired by the books. This is the “show us what you made“ mailbox, and it is our favorite one to open.

MaiselMcLaula@NextGenLearners.com – write directly to the author. Maisel reads every message.

STAY CONNECTED

Visit the Learning Realm at NextGenLearners.com – free printables, book news, and the full *Think Like a Brain!*™ collection live there. Sign up for the newsletter while you're there for new resources, release dates, and the occasional gentle reminder that your brain is doing just fine.

A NOTE FROM MAISEL

Thank you.

For choosing Perry. For sitting beside a child while they learned that their body is a map being drawn – not a problem to solve. For reading slowly. For pausing when they asked questions. For trusting that stories can carry real science into a child's heart.

NGL Publishing is a small, independent imprint. Every book, printable, and free resource is made because a real child – somewhere – needed it. Your support is what keeps that going.

Share the Love

If Perry helped a child you love, tell a friend, a teacher, a therapist. Word of mouth is how small presses grow big hearts. And if you'd like to leave a review – it truly does make all the difference.

– With gratitude,

Maisel McLaula