



INTERNATIONAL
CODE COUNCIL®



Illustrated by
Abby Little Jessup

**BUILDING CODES and CODE OFFICIALS
KEEP US SAFE**



All communities need building codes.
They shape the safety of the world around us.

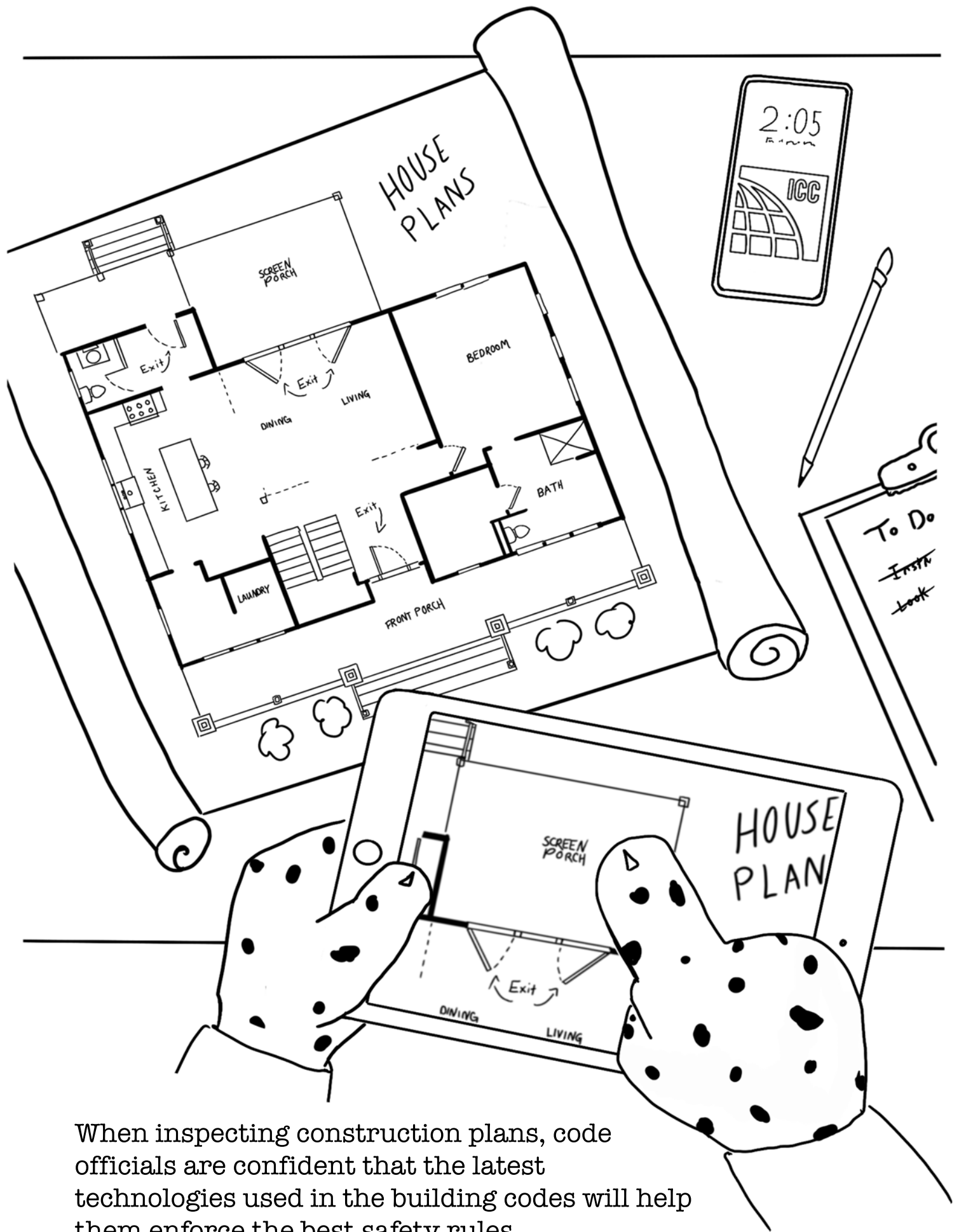


What are building codes?

Building codes are books of rules about the safest ways to construct buildings. There are building codes that cover all parts of buildings including plumbing and fire safety.



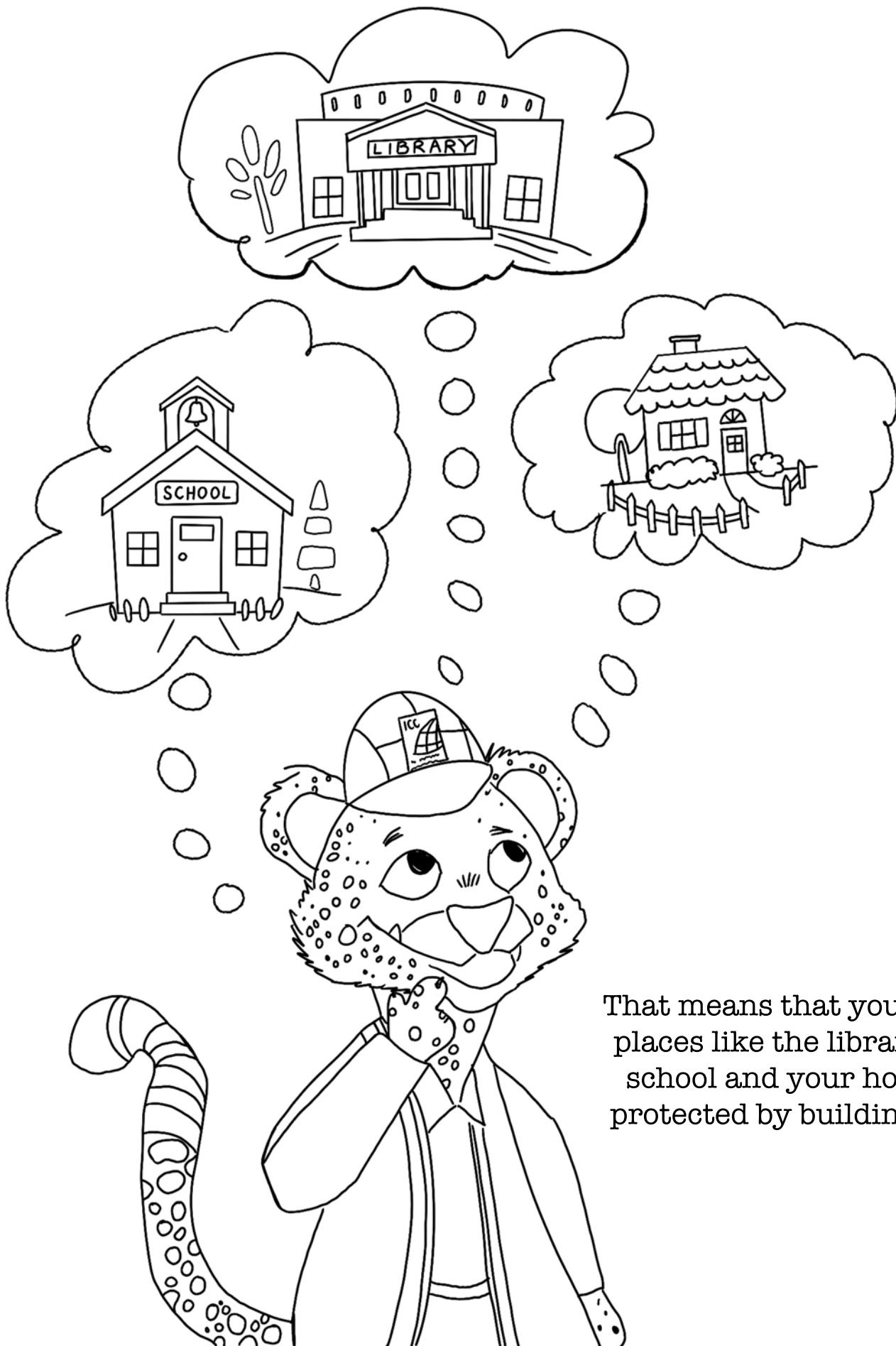
Building codes use the best technologies to keep us and the environment safe. For example, there are codes for air quality, solar energy and water conservation.



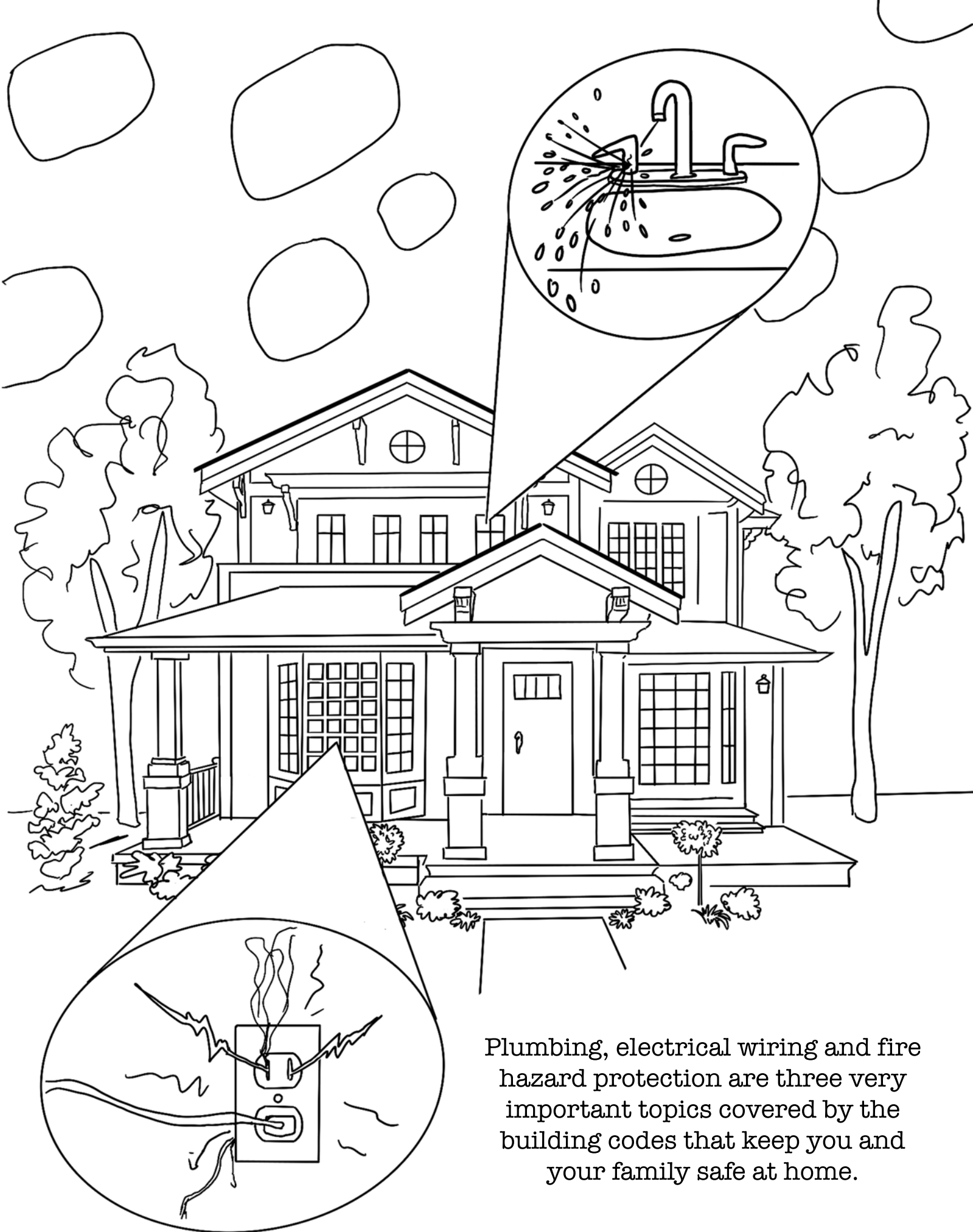
When inspecting construction plans, code officials are confident that the latest technologies used in the building codes will help them enforce the best safety rules.



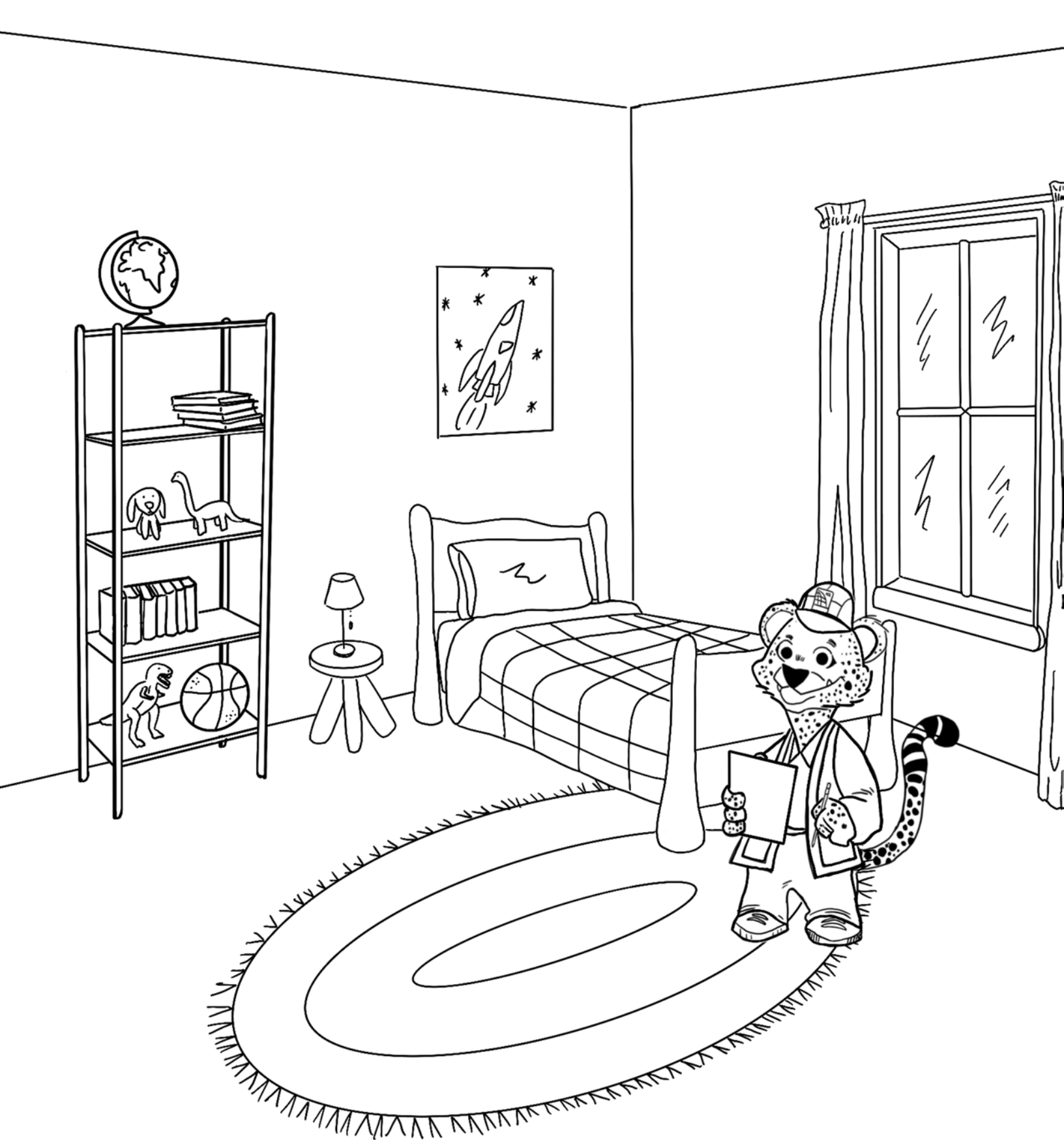
In fact, code officials inspect every building that you come in contact with to make sure it follows the rules of the code that will keep you safe.



That means that your favorite places like the library, your school and your home are protected by building codes.



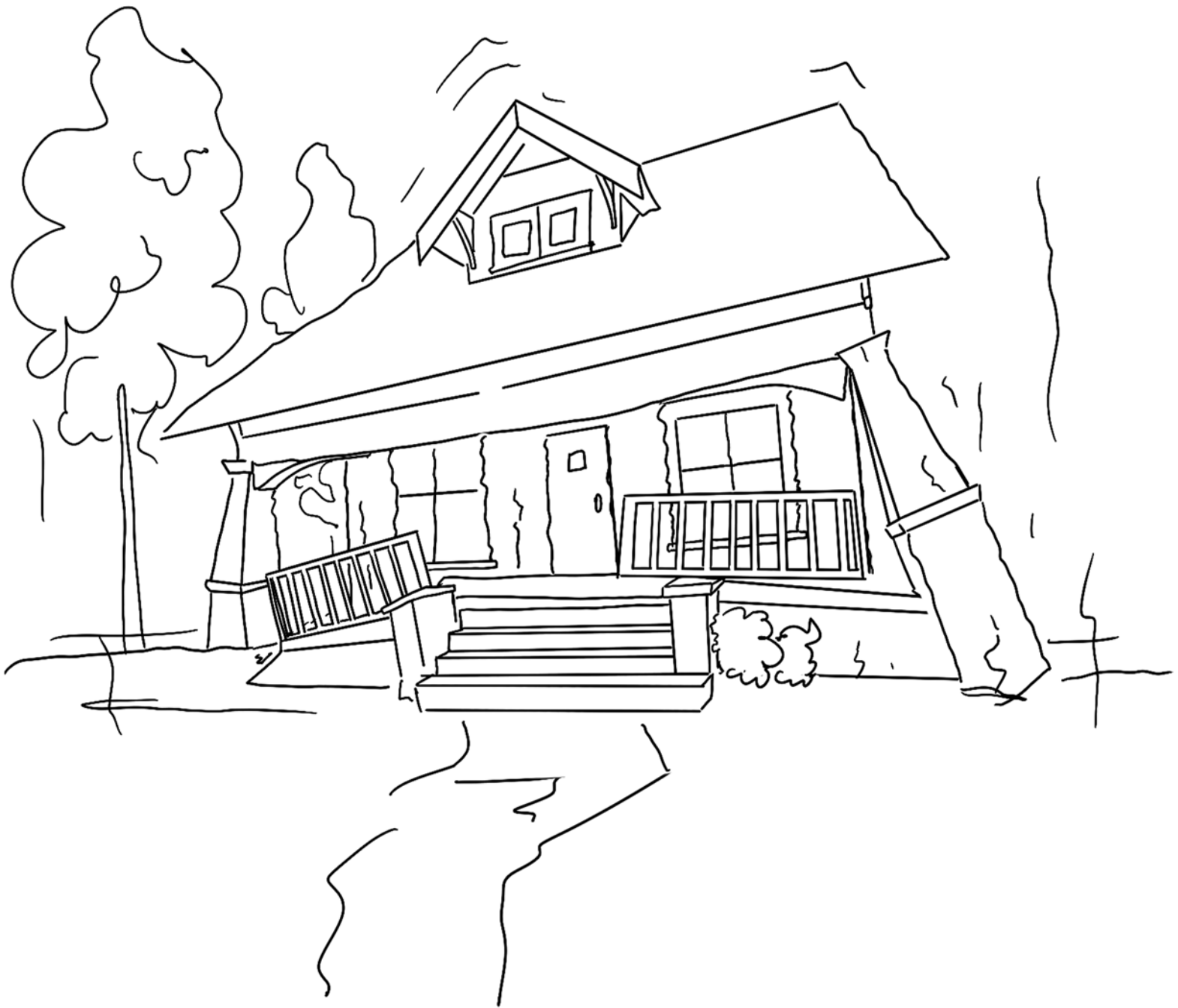
Plumbing, electrical wiring and fire hazard protection are three very important topics covered by the building codes that keep you and your family safe at home.



Even your bedroom follows the rules of building codes and needed to be inspected and approved by code officials. For example, the windows in your bedroom are there for light and ventilation.



Although building codes protect us, we cannot predict when an emergency will happen. In the event of an emergency, such as a fire, make sure your family has an escape plan.



There are many different types of emergencies. Sometimes they can include natural disasters such as earthquakes, tornadoes and hurricanes. Proper building code enforcement would have helped this house stand stronger during the earthquake.

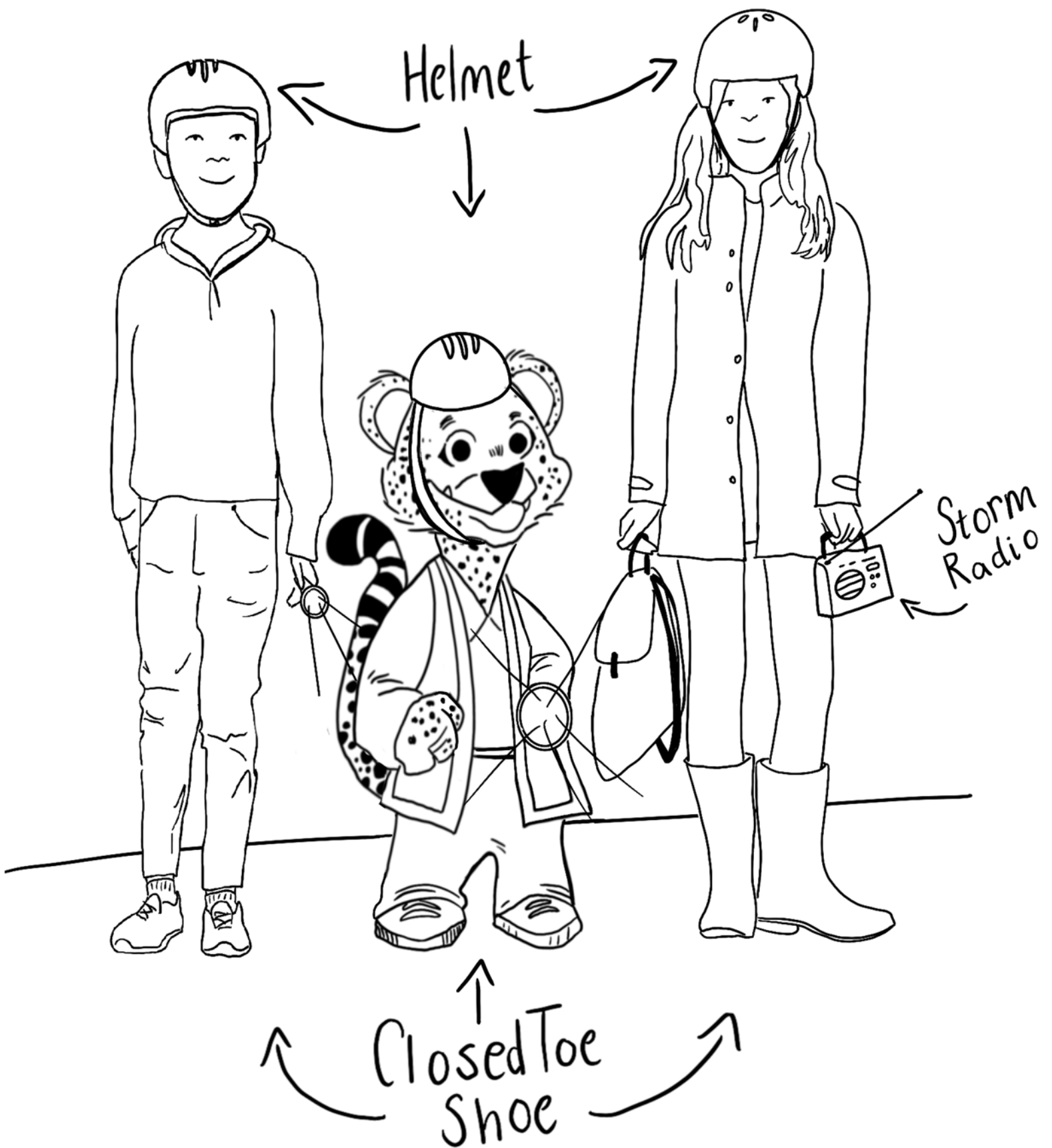


Houses built to the most up-to-date building codes have the best chance of withstanding a natural disaster.





This is why it is important that your family has an
Emergency Safety Kit.



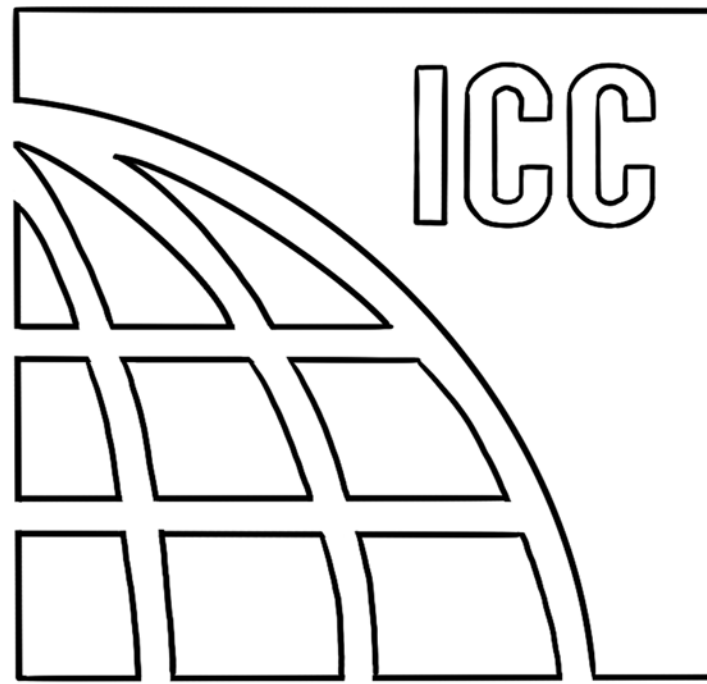
Always be sure to stay calm and properly use the items within the Emergency Safety Kit.



Thanks to building codes and code officials, when there is an emergency, first responders like fire fighters and police officers can do their jobs safely.



Building codes and code officials are important to
the safety of every community.



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