

Early Years

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT START

October 2015

Busy Beach Day Care Center
Director



KID BITS

Long-distance connections

Encourage your child to stay in touch with relatives who live far away. She might eat breakfast with her aunt and uncle via video chat. Or she could become pen pals with out-of-town cousins and send photos with her letters. She'll get practice speaking, writing, and communicating as she builds bonds with family.

Breaking habits

If your youngster bites his nails or chews his pencil, you may wonder how he can break the habit. Many kids overcome these habits without much difficulty as they get older. In the meantime, suggest activities to distract him. When he bites his nails, for example, suggest singing a song that uses hand movements.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Common Core State Standards

begin in kindergarten. Among other things, they call for children to read more nonfiction, to write for a variety of purposes, and to explain their thinking when they solve math problems. Visit corestandards.org to see if your state has adopted these learning standards.

Worth quoting

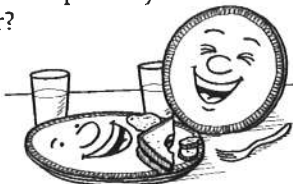
"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

Albert Camus

Just for fun

Q: What did one plate say to the other?

A: Lunch is on me!



Responsible for myself

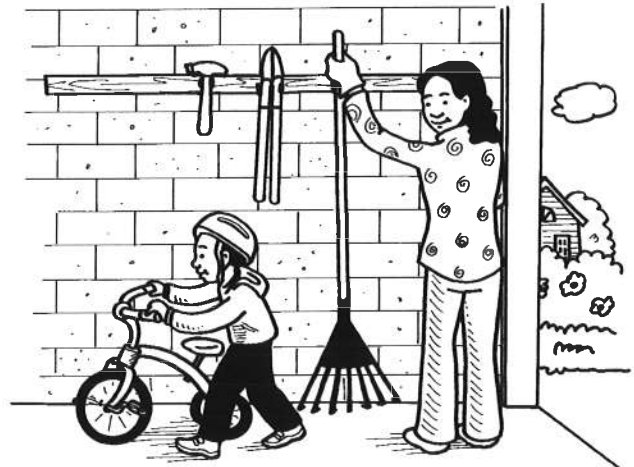
You know you want your little one to grow into a responsible teenager and adult one day. But responsibility isn't built overnight—it's the result of many small steps. Here are some you can take now.

Make decisions

Try to give your child responsibility for choices, whether he's deciding what to pack for a sleepover or which kind of birthday party to have. For example, discuss the weather forecast, and let him pick the clothes to take. Or help him talk through two or three party choices, listing the pros and cons of each.

Be accountable

Have your youngster fix his mistakes when possible. This teaches him to take responsibility for his actions. If he leaves his tricycle outside in the rain and it gets wet, have him dry it off himself. Then, talk about what he should do differently



next time (put the tricycle away when he's finished riding it).

Enjoy results

Let your child be responsible for remembering what he needs to do. If he brings his books back on library day, he can check out new ones. Or if he puts his favorite T-shirt in the laundry hamper, he'll be able to wear it again soon. Seeing the consequences of showing responsibility will encourage him to keep up the good work!♥

Everyday math words

Help your child get comfortable with the language of math by weaving math words and phrases into conversations. Here's how:

- Encourage your youngster to compare quantities and sizes. You could ask, "Are there *more* people in the first line or the second line?" or "Which glass has *less* water?" This prepares her to make "greater than," "less than," and "equal to" comparisons with numbers and measurements.
- Use phrases that your child will find in story problems, like *altogether* and *take away*. ("There are three pictures on this wall. If we *take away* one picture, how many will be left?")
- It's not too early for your little one to begin understanding fractions. Ask her to fold napkins in *half*, or suggest that she divide her marble collection into four *equal sets*.♥

