

# Parents as Partners

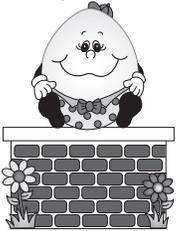
## Did You Know?

Independence is an important character trait and one that your child is attempting to build during her toddler years. Your child is struggling to balance dependence on you and the desire to do things by herself. So instead of cringing when you hear, "I do it," be thankful your child is on her way to becoming independent—a trait that someday you will admire.

## Try It Out

Here are three tips to remember:

1. Don't do things for your child that she can do herself. Provide encouragement and extra time. Teach new skills when you have a little extra time instead of when you are in a hurry. This way you can relax and enjoy learning together.
2. Remember that mistakes are often as valuable as getting it right. Children will probably make many of them on their way to mastery.
3. Let your child make choices when possible. This develops pride and confidence.



We have been studying "Humpty Dumpty" and "Hey, Diddle, Diddle" nursery rhymes this week. Recite rhymes you know to your child. After saying the rhymes a few times, pause before completing a rhyming couplet to see if your child can name the missing rhyming word. For example, "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great \_\_\_\_."

## Looking Ahead

We will be washing, hiding, and finding mittens as we study "Three Little Kittens" next week. Please bring to our classroom any mittens that you are willing to donate.

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## Did You Know?

Children who grow up to be good readers all have one thing in common and it may not be what you might expect. It is not that they had parents who attended college or that they had special teachers. Children who have strong reading skills have parents who read to them and told them stories.

## Try It Out

Reading at bedtime seems the most common time parents read to their children but there are many reading opportunities throughout the day. Reading opportunities happen everywhere at any time. Here are some ideas:

- Read letters you receive and invite your child to help you write a response.
- Read labels on cans, boxes, and other grocery packaging.
- Read signs in the store and billboards along the road.
- Tell stories while driving or at dinnertime. Include fairytales and traditional tales from your childhood. Tell stories about grandparents and your childhood.
- Take your child to the library and check out a book for your child and yourself.



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## Did You Know?

Children learn about themselves through you. The way you give attention to your child is important. There are many ways you can help your child feel safe, secure, and loved. Children need the comfort of your touch and the warmth and security of your arms.



## Try It Out

- Rock your child, hug your child, and let her sit on your lap often.
- Look at your child with the same loving eyes of admiration you had the first moment you looked at her. She needs that loving, reassuring look more often than you know.
- Always use a kind and loving voice. Even when your child has done something wrong, use a firm voice that is still loving and not frightening.
- Imitate your child often. Imitation shows acceptance and encourages her to practice important skills and movements. For example, if your child says a silly word, repeat it. If your child makes a funny face, copy it.
- Be fully present with your child. Take time out to play a game, read a book, or go on a walk.

## Looking Ahead

Please bring to our classroom shoes (men's, women's, and children's) you are willing to donate for next week's activities.

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## Did You Know?

Children are naturally curious. This is one reason they are constantly asking "why." They are learning all the time. "Why" just means they want to know more. Of course, they also ask "why" to get and possibly keep your attention. So how can you make the constant "whys" more tolerable?

## Try It Out

The next time your child asks "why," ask her what she thinks instead of immediately answering the question. She may know the answer and is asking "why" to verify her thoughts. Or, she may be trying to put pieces of information together. Children don't have the ability to engage in internal dialogue like adults do, so they crystallize their thinking by verbalizing it. And, if your child does not know the answer, you will gain valuable information about where to start with your answer.

When you are busy and can't engage in conversation when your child is asking "why," make a date. Say: I have to finish what I am doing but as soon as I finish this letter, we can talk. Provide a concrete way for your child to measure the time until you are free. Set a timer and your child will most likely focus on waiting for the buzzer to sound.

