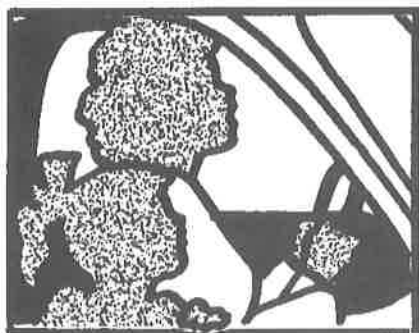


Grade 1 Week 28

Summary 25-27

Growing Up



Abstract concepts of space, time, distance become clearer

The child's understanding of space and distance is getting better. He can tell you where you are according to familiar landmarks. He gets afraid sometimes, though, of getting lost, so play "navigator" games with him to increase his sense of direction.

- Have him tell you where to turn on a familiar route.
- Have him watch for landmarks on new routes.

His thinking is more agile now, too. He can talk about abstract concepts. A good game to play to increase this skill is "What if...?" The questions can be absurd: "What if you could only eat purple food?" And the answer could be absurd, too: "Then I'd eat grapes and purple cows!"

Asking "What if" also prepares a child for real-life situation: "What if a stranger offered you a ride?" "What if you woke up at night and smelled smoke?"

Along with being better at distances and abstract concepts, a first grader also seems sometimes to be incredibly rude and disobedient. Babysitters and other care givers will tell you that he is rude, fresh, nasty, insulting, argumentative, and impudent.

This happens because the child thinks only his parents have the right to tell him what to do. When anyone else tries to make him do something or correct him for something, he feels they're infringing on his parents' domain.

The best way to handle these incidents is to talk with the babysitter or caregiver about the ways to frame requests so that the child will comply gladly.

You may also think your child is hard of hearing, after you've told him three times to do something. Actually, the problem is that while his hearing is probably fine, his concentration is on something else and your words or sounds simply do not penetrate.

Try this: go to him and touch him gently. Make him look at you as well as listen to you while you tell him what it is you have to say. You'll get better results—in less time.

Effective discipline strategies focus on how you as a parent handle the misbehavior. Make sure your child knows exactly what you expect from him by using direct statements and by being as specific as possible. Keep your emotions under control and remember never to take your anger out on a child. Let your child know that while you may not like what he's done, you still love him.

Swapping is a favorite activity now. Erasers, pencils, matchbox cars, lunches. You may have to intervene when he tries to swap his baby sister or his new winter jacket.

He also loves collecting things, and having things. But most of all, he loves giving things. It's a nice habit to have.

"With children we must mix gentleness with firmness. They must not always have their own way, but they must not always be thwarted. If we never have headaches through rebuking them, we shall have plenty of heartaches when they grow up."

—Charles H. Spurgeon—