

## Grade 1 Week 29

### Plain speaking

When your child is speaking—rapidly or slowly—you may still notice a few errors in articulation. It's as if her tongue gets lost in her mouth.

Some children are still putting the finishing touches on the complex area of speech development. "S" sounds and "v-f-h" sounds may now and then be mispronounced, especially when a child is under stress.

The best treatment: Don't let her know you noticed. And don't let older siblings comment or imitate. Contact her homeroom teacher about a check from the speech and hearing teacher, however, if the problem continues next year.

In the meantime, speak clearly, in short sentences, and not too rapidly. Make sure you have eye contact with the child before you state your message. A good model provides a good learning experience.

### Hyperactive or acting his age?

You may wonder, "Is my child hyperactive?"

He seems to move through the house like a tornado, leaving a cluttered path of destruction. He can't sit still during meals. He wriggles and flings his arms and legs about. He is easily frustrated and his moods appear to change from one extreme to another.

If your child exhibits most of these behaviors on a very frequent basis, it is possible that he may be truly "hyperactive" and therefore in need of professional help. On the other hand, if he exhibits these behaviors only occasionally, it is likely that his behavior is just what is characteristic of some very healthy first graders.

In other words, it is not just the behaviors that need to be observed, but also the frequency with which those behaviors occur. Most children outgrow the tornado-like behavior that is a part of being this age. But if the problem appears to be more acute, then a professional evaluation should be sought.

### Give her the respect she deserves

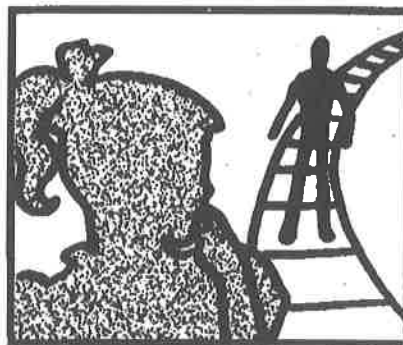
Although she is more emotionally stable now, the joy she feels will change quickly to resentment and anger if you forget to respect her as a little person.

She resents authority arbitrarily imposed. "Because I said so!" won't do.

She also resents punishment or being reprimanded before company—and rightly so.

*"The secret of education lies in respecting the pupil."*

—R.W. Emerson—



### Sex abuse

Statistics regarding increased sexual molestation and abuse of children are alarming. Your child needs protection—but you cannot always be there.

Molesters and abusers are not always strangers. Neighbors, old family friends, even relatives have been known to sexually abuse a child. This means you can't describe a certain kind of person to avoid, nor can you warn about specific places to stay away from.

Simply tell your child that her body belongs to her and that she should allow no one to touch her in special places. If the person persists, she should run to where a group of adults are, and by all means, tell Mother.

You don't want to create a fearful, neurotic child, but she should realize that she does not have to submit to such treatment.