

## Cheating

"Tattle-tales" are not favorites of parents or teachers. One wonders, "What's wrong with that kid to be so happy about someone else's misfortune?"

However, if you get a report that your child had to "stay in at recess" because he "cheated," be glad you were told. You need to look into the matter before it becomes a problem.

The problem is not the actual act of "cheating"—or copying off a neighbor's paper. Little folks in kindergarten and first grade think of copying simply as sharing. And "sharing" is greatly emphasized. If a child doesn't know what to put down, his neighbor shares.

The real problem is: Why did he need to copy? That's the important thing. Is there a gap in his learning somewhere? Or was he talking instead of listening?

What to do? Go to school, see the paper, bring it home, and watch how he performs on similar problems you give him. You may need to re-teach him the skills he's lacking. This is a better way to prevent "cheating" than preaching.

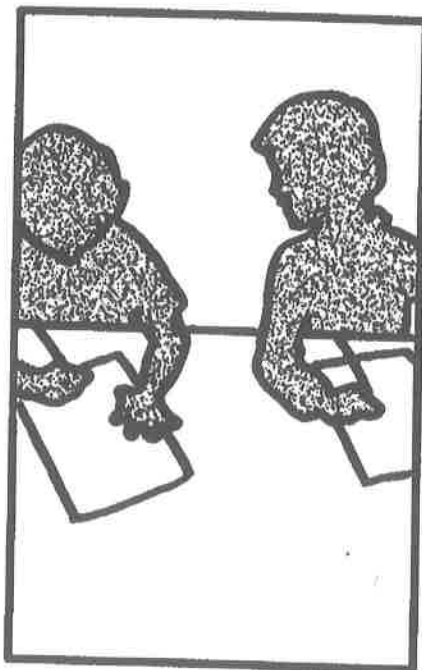
This is not one of the seven deadly sins now. Nip the need to look at a neighbor's paper before it becomes a habit.

## Enjoying school?

Does your child still have that same good feeling about school that he had in the beginning? He was so confident. Remember, he couldn't wait to go to "real school" and do "real work."

Dislike of school, if it does develop, occurs toward the end of the year if a child, for one reason or another, has not been able to maintain his place in the group. If he dislikes school, it is very important to know why.

Remember, this is going to go on for at least eleven years more, so it's important that he like it. So observe, listen, and act quietly and wisely. Your child needs you.



*"If, when instructing a child, you are vexed with it for want of adroitness, try to write with your left hand. Then remember that a child is all left hand."*

*—J.F. Boyse—*

## Bicycle time

Most first graders will ask for a bicycle. If at all possible, buy or borrow one for him. It's not that he simply wants another possession. He needs it for development of balance and locomotor skills.

Many children would be satisfied if they could borrow a small bicycle until they have learned to ride and have some successful experience.

## A new attitude

By this time, joy begins to figure more strongly in the child's emotional life. Parents report a new kind of enthusiasm: he "loves" to do things.

He enjoys books, he enjoys the effort of working on things, and most of all, he enjoys surprising his parents.

This is a pleasant new attitude emerging, but at times there is backsliding to earlier typical behavior. However, the positive trend is strong enough so that he can resolve to "be good all day"—and do it!