

# Grade 1 Week 32

## Summary 29-31

# Growing Up

### How to deal with lying, cheating, death

Now that your child is in the wider world of school and away from home so much of the day, you may be more concerned about negative influences like lying and cheating.

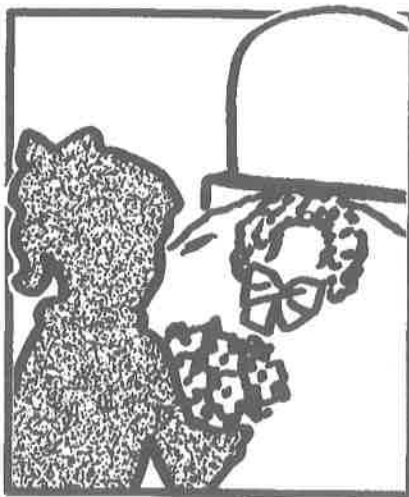
"Liar" is a hard word to apply to a first grader. Most children are natural tall-tale-tellers, and this really doesn't do any harm. You can usually tell tall tales because some part—or all—of them is absurd.

Deliberately telling an untruth to cover up or protect an action or circumstance is another matter, however. The child will usually "fib" when he faces a problem he doesn't know how to solve. It is much better to gently ask him to tell you about his problem than to confront him with his "lie." That way you can help him over the trouble and teach him something about facing truth squarely.

Cheating is also something that bothers adults more than children. At the first grade level, copying off someone else's paper is considered "sharing," not "cheating." It is more important to find out why the student did not know the answer—and then teach him what he didn't know—than to punish him for copying.

Death is a subject that holds morbid fascination for first graders. They talk about it among themselves, and they often have nightmares that their mothers may die. Be alert to fears—remember that they feel real to the youngster. Reassurance will help.

On the brighter side, your child is enjoying almost everything now. He enjoys books, school, and surprising his parents. He enjoys working and playing. He wants a bicycle, and if you possibly can, buy or borrow one for him. He needs it for development of his muscles and nerves and for balance. It's an important physical experience.



Because the child gets so excited about things, he often mispronounces words or sounds. This is natural and will go away by next year. If it doesn't, consult the speech and hearing teacher. But for now, just ignore slips, and don't let older siblings tease.

You may wonder if your child is hyperactive. He tears through the house like a tornado and is rarely still. Here's how you can get a good idea: If he can snuggle quietly for a bedtime story and be relaxed, then he's probably not hyperactive. He's just acting his age.

Sexual abuse is a constant concern for parents of both boys and girls. This is a dangerous age for this type of crime. Without making him fearful of everything and everybody, make sure he knows that no one—not babysitters, not relatives, not strangers—should touch his body or his "special places." Tell him his body is his, and if someone is bothering him, he should run to where grown-ups are, and then be sure to tell his mother.

*"Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not."*

—John Ruskin—