TEN ANNOYING BEHAVIORS THAT SHOW YOUR CHILD IS OKAY

Published June 20, 2012

By: Cathy L. Graham
County Extension Director

As you are raising your children, here’s one thing that no one tells you: There are behaviors that are both annoying and nerve-wrecking that are part of perfectly normal child development. Let’s discuss them, so you will realize this is all normal behavior. In fact, it is time to start worrying if none of these things happen.

1. Before the first birthday, your sociable little darling suddenly begins to scream when confronting an unfamiliar face – which may include Grandma if she hasn’t visited recently. All this shows is that true attachment to parents has occurred.

2. About 18 months, your child likes to dump – anything, anywhere. Dumping food or the sugar bowl is as much fun as dumping blocks – even more so is the satisfying howl from the nearest parent. Physical exploration leads to understanding.

3. By 2 years, your child yells “me!” “mine!” when asked to share a toy with a playmate. While this doesn’t make for smooth play dates, it is very normal.

4. When you send your 2½-year-old to wash his hands before dinner, it takes a half hour and the bathroom resembles the aftermath of a cyclone. Water play takes precedence over cleanliness or obedience anytime.

5. Around age 3, you can count on spilled milk at the table every single day. I remember despairing that we were raising a complete klutz. Just consider the number of things that are competing for her attention at mealtime.
6. When your child is about 3½, most waking hours will be spent in character and costume as “Spiderman!” or “Wonder Woman!” There’s just something about those powerful images that captivate the imagination of someone who has little power beyond choosing a breakfast cereal.

7. Don’t be shocked when you discover your child – about age 4 – exploring bodies with a friend or two. This doesn’t indicate deviant interests but a perfectly normal curiosity about other children’s anatomy.

8. Somewhere around age 4½, you will wonder if your child is heading for a career in competitive sports or politics. Children at this age become preoccupied with “winning” - being the “biggest” and “best” and even competing on whose dad is the strongest. Not a problem – how else do you begin to figure out where you measure up in relation to others?

9. The 5-year-old, who is sweetly amenable to most adult suggestions, becomes a virtual tyrant when there are younger children nearby to boss around. Again, it’s not too difficult to figure out. About this time, children have to comply with adult guidelines for behavior in school and at home. It’s natural to want to exercise a bit of authority over someone younger.

10. When your school-ager comes home after a long school day, don’t be surprised to hear a muttered, “you’re not the boss of me” when you make a simple request. It’s kind of the equivalent of getting out from under the control of the supervisor at work.

   See? Your child is really just as normal as all the others of the same age. And you’ll both live through it.

Source: Growing Together Newsletter

FUN THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR CHILDREN

- Take a country drive, wander through a corn maze, take a hayride.
- Make a summer treat at home - old-fashioned fudge, homemade gingerbread, or smoothies.
- Create a family scrapbook. Add photographs and write in brief descriptions of the family's events along with a comment or two from each person.
- Write letters of thanks to veteran family members and/or friends.

For more information, please contact Cathy L. Graham, County Extension Director with North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Robeson County Center, at 671-3276, by E-mail at Cathy_Graham@ncsu.edu, or visit our website at http://robeson.ces.ncsu.edu. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation.