

BEST QUOTES ON CHILDREN

Children are the messages we send to a future we will not see.

--Neil Postman

At some point in your life your parents put you down and never picked you up again.

—Unknown

When a child gives you a gift, even if it is a rock they just picked up, exude gratitude. It might be the only thing they have to give, and they have chosen to give it to you.

—Dean Jackson

A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement. It is our misfortune that for most of us that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe-inspiring, is dimmed and even lost before we reach adulthood.

--Rachel Carson

If there were no children on this earth, there would be no beauty here.

--Rejean Ducharme

The hearts of small children are delicate organs. A cruel beginning in this world can twist them into curious shapes. The heart of a child can shrink so that forever afterward it is hard and pitted as the seed of a peach. Or again, the heart of such a child may fester and swell until it is a misery to carry within the body, easily chafed and hurt by the most ordinary things.

--Carson McCullers

A kid needs time to lie on his back, opportunity to find out whether he breathes differently when he's thinking about it than when he's just breathing and to wonder who she'd be if her parents hadn't gotten together. A kid needs enough downtime to be bored, yes—bored enough to stare at the sky and study the imperfections in his own eyeball. That's what makes for a childhood worth remembering for the whole of one's life.

--Robert Paul Smith

When you finally go back to your old hometown, you find it wasn't the old home you missed. It was your childhood.

—Sam Ewing

Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression.
—Dr. Haim Ginott

Strong-willed children become adults who change the world as long as we can hang on for the ride and resist the temptation to ‘tame’ the spirit out of them.
—Sarah Stogryn

Being a child is horrible. It is slightly better than being a tree or a piece of heavy machinery but not half as good as being a domestic cat.
—Julie Burchill

I’m not a naughty brat. I’m little and I’m still learning. I get overwhelmed and frustrated just like you do. Because nobody is perfect. Help me. Guide me. Love me.
—*The Learning Station*

Toddler (noun): Someone who can’t hear their name being called repeatedly but can hear a bag of chips being opened through three walls and a thunderstorm.
—*Honest Toddler*

Children are completely egoistic; they feel their needs intensely and strive ruthlessly to satisfy them.
--Sigmund Freud

We impose the stress-filled demands and rigors of adulthood on children...We try to measure everyone with an adult yardstick. For children, that means they are made to measure up to adult standards when they should be allowed to be children.
—Dr. Bill Thomas

So long as little children are allowed to suffer, there is no true love in this world.
--Isadora Duncan

A child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every passer by leaves a mark.
--Chinese Proverb

It has been said that a society can be judged by the way it treats its children.
--Richard N. Gottfried

Thou art thy mother’s glass, and she in thee
Calls back the lovely April of her prime.
--William Shakespeare

Baby: A loud noise at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.

--Ronald Knox

A child is raised by the village.

--African Proverb

Children are the reward of life.

--Congolese Proverb

Children need love, especially when they do not deserve it.

--Harold S. Hulbert

The question that's probably uppermost in the child's mind is: Why do my parents want to have a baby? Don't they love me? And if they love me, why do they need another one? Aren't I enough? Imagine for a minute yourself in a similar situation. Your husband comes home and says? 'Honey I love you so much, I've decided to go get another wife so I can have two.' How would you feel?

--Lawrence Balter

Take two kids in competition for their parents' love and attention. Add to that the envy that one child feels for the accomplishments of the other; the resentment that each child feels for the privileges of the other; the personal frustrations that they don't dare let out on anyone else but a brother or sister, and it's not hard to understand why in families across the land, the sibling relationship contains enough emotional dynamite to set off rounds of daily explosions.

--Adele Faber

Sisters define their rivalry in terms of competition for the gold cup of parental love. It is never perceived as a cup which runneth over, rather a finite vessel from which the more one sister drinks, the less is left for the others.

--Elizabeth Fishel

Children are poor men's riches.

--English Proverb

I love these little people; and it is not a slight thing, when they, who are so fresh from God, love us.

--Charles Dickens

The childhood shows the man,
As morning shows the day.

--John Milton

My mom says I'm her sugarplum.
My mom says I'm her lamb.
My mom says I'm completely perfect
Just the way I am.
My mom says I'm a super-special
wonderful terrific little guy.
My mom just had another baby.
Why?

--Judith Viorst

Instead of needing lots of children, we need high-quality children.

--Margaret Mead

A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on.

--Carl Sandburg

A babe in a house is a wellspring of pleasure.

--Martin Tupper

If a growing object is both fresh and spoiled at the same time, chances are it is a child.

--Morris Goldfischer

Children are our most valuable natural resource.

--Herbert Hoover

In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances, and of no matter what parents, the potentiality of the human race is born again.

--James Agee

If children grew up according to early indications, we should have nothing but geniuses.

--Johann von Goethe

Children enjoy the present because they have neither a past nor a future.

--Jean de La Bruyere

To the little child is given the keep of happiness, and the key, likewise of wisdom. He trails his fingers in cool water, and it is enough to make him laugh and sing with the gladness of living. He breathes the spring wind, or watches snowflakes falling, or stares at the patterned lichen on a stone, and his heart is set singing with the glory and the wonder of the world.

--Alan Devoe

The first cry of a newborn baby in Chicago or Zamboango, in Amsterdam or Rangoon, has the same pitch and key, each saying, 'I am! I have come through! I belong! I am a member of the Family.'

--Carl Sandburg

Children begin by loving their parents. After a time they judge them. Rarely, if ever, do they forgive them.

--Oscar Wilde

Childhood is the form that upholds each child's life forever. If a man or a society taints a child's childhood, brutalizes it, strikes it down, and corrupts it with fear and bad dreams, then he maims that child forever, and the judgment on that man and that society will be terrible and eternal.

--Ned O'Gorman

He who sentimentally sings of blessed childhood is thinking of the return to nature and innocence and the origin of things, and has quite forgotten that these blessed children are beset with conflict and complexities and capable of all suffering.

--Hermann Hesse

Children are all foreigners. We treat them as such.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important. You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they are carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities and corporations...the fate of humanity is in a child's hands.

--Abraham Lincoln

Children...are the last candid audience left. They don't care what critics say and they will let you know immediately what delights and what bores them.

--Gian-Carlo Menotti

If children knew, oh, if they only knew their power! It is something absolutely glorious in its immensity. But they do not even see it dimly until it is gone forever.

--Aline Kilmer

We should not make light of the troubles of children. They are worse than ours, because we can see the end of our trouble and they can never see any end.

--William Middleton

As far back as I can remember I was saddened by the amount of misery I saw in the world around me. Youth's unqualified *joie de vivre* I never really knew, and I believe that to be the case with many children, even though they appear outwardly merry and quite free from care.

--Albert Schweitzer

The child is surrounded by so much authority, so much school, so much dignity, so much law, that it would have to break down under the weight of all these restraints if it were not saved from such a fate by meeting with a friend.

--Dr. Wilhelm Stekhel

The child, if it were a philosopher, might say to us: 'You laugh at me because I am so absorbed in make-believe, but you do not laugh at yourselves, though you are equally absorbed in make-believe. You, no more than I, have found the key to what is permanent, but live seriously in a world of playthings.'

--Robert Lynd

The life of children, as much as that of intemperate men, is wholly governed by their desires.

--Aristotle

That energy which makes a child hard to manage is the energy which afterward makes him a manager of life.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Who takes the child by the hand, takes the mother by the heart.

--Danish Proverb

There never was child so lovely but his mother was glad to get him asleep.
--Ralph Waldo Emerson

In the little world in which children have their existence, whosoever brings them up, there is nothing so finely perceived and so finely felt, as injustice.
--Charles Dickens

We find delight in the beauty and happiness of children that makes the heart too big for the body.
--Ralph Waldo Emerson

The development of a tree depends on where it is planted.
—Edward Joyner

The most effective kind of education is that a child should play amongst lovely things.
—Plato

Children need models rather than critics.
--Joseph Joubert

A torn jacket is soon mended; but hard words bruise the heart of a child.
--Longfellow

We find ourselves more taken with the running up and down, the games, and puerile simplicities of our children, than we do, afterward, with their most complete actions; as if we have loved them for our sport, like monkeys, and not as men.
--Montaigne

Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life.
--Sophocles

All dressed up and shining
Or with a dirty face...
Laughing with a playmate
Or softly saying grace

You're a bundle straight from Heaven
And no one could take your place!
—Unknown

If men do not keep on speaking terms with children, they cease to be men, and become merely machines for eating and for earning money.

--John Updike

Babies make days
a little sunnier...
family fun
a little funnier..
family ties
a little dearer...
and the meaning of love
a little clearer.

--Unknown

A child is Innocence meeting the world
With a trusting, out-stretched hand,
Curiosity discovering the world
Unhurriedly, unplanned,
Honesty laying bare the world's
True joys and hidden flaws,
Excitement never allowing the world
To stop, but briefly pause.
A child is Laughter conquering the world
With an open, smiling face.
A child is Love uplifting the world
To a happier, higher place.

--Kay Andrew

No one ever keeps a secret so well as a child.

--Victor Hugo

What a blessing is a child in our old age!

--Theaetetus Scholasticus

Give a little love to a child, and you get a great deal back.

--John Ruskin

Where children are not, heaven is not.

--Queen Mary

The wildest colts make the best horses.

--Plutarch

Babies are bits of star-dust blown from the hand of God. Lucky the woman who knows the pangs of birth for she has held a star.

--Larry Barretto

The greatest poem ever known
Is one all poets have outgrown:
The poetry, innate, untold,
Of being only four years old.

--Christopher Morley

In praise of little children I will say
God first made man, then found a better way
For woman, but his third way was the best.
Of all created things, the loveliest
And most divine are children.

--William Canton

Of all nature's gifts to the human race, what is sweeter to a man than his children?

--Cicero

You can do anything with children if you only play with them.

--Bismarck

A small boy is a pain in the neck when he's around and pain in the heart when he's not.

--Unknown

Too often an abandoned child is one who is still living with his parents.

--Unknown

There are no illegitimate children—only illegitimate parents.

--Leon R. Yankwich

Of all the animals, the boy is the most unmanageable.

--Plato

Making terms with reality, with things as they are, is full-time business for the child.

--Milton R. Sapirstein

The barb in the arrow of childhood suffering is this: its intense loneliness, its intense ignorance.

--Olive Schreiner

Know you what it is to be a child? It is to be something very different from the man of today. It is to have a spirit yet streaming from the waters of baptism; it is to believe in love, to believe in loveliness, to believe in belief; it is to be so little that the elves can reach to whisper in your ear; it is to turn pumpkins into coaches, and mice into horses, lowness into loftiness, and nothing into everything, for each child has its fairy godmother in its soul.

--Francis Thompson

Children have neither past nor future; they enjoy the present, which very few of us do.

--La Bruyere

The child is father of the man.

--William Wordsworth

The interests of childhood and youth are the interests of mankind.

—Allison James

Infancy isn't what it is cracked up to be. Children, not knowing that they are having an easy time, have a good many hard times. Growing and learning and obeying the rules of their elders, or fighting against them, are not easy things to do.

--Don Marquis

The plays of natural lively children are the infancy of art. Children live in a world of imagination and feeling. They invest the most insignificant object with any form they please, and see in it whatever they wish to see.

--Oehlenschlager

The world's precious treasures are in the mind of a child.

--Unknown

There is no such thing as genius. Some children are less damaged than others.

--Buckminster Fuller

Bear in mind that children of all ages have one thing in common—they close their ears to advice and open their eyes to example.

—*The Tablet*

I am fond of children—except boys.

—Lewis Carroll

The potential possibilities of any child are the most intriguing and stimulating in all creation.

—Ray L. Wilbur

Monday's child is fair of face,
Tuesday's child is full of grace,
Wednesday's child is full of woe
Thursday's child has far to go
Friday's child is loving and giving,
Saturday's child works hard for a living,
But the child born on the Sabbath day
Is happy and wise and good and gay.

--Unknown

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.

--Rachel Carson

Children have more need of models than of critics.

--Joseph Joubert

All children wear the sign: 'I want to be important NOW!' Many of our juvenile delinquency problems arise because nobody reads the sign.

--Dan Pursuit

What children expect from grown-ups is not to be 'understood,' but only to be loved, even though this love may be expressed clumsily or in sternness.

--Carl Zucker

If a child lives with approval, he learns to live with himself.

--Dorothy Nolte

Soft is the heart of a child. Embrace it!

--Unknown

In praising or loving a child, we love and praise not that which is, but that which we hope for.

--Goethe

WHAT WILL WE TEACH?

A Child that lives with ridicule learns to be timid.

A Child that lives with criticism learns to condemn.

A Child that lives with distrust learns to be deceitful.

A Child that lives with antagonism learns to be hostile.

A Child that lives with affection learns to love.

A Child that lives with encouragement learns confidence.

A Child that lives with truth learns justice.

A Child that lives with praise learns to appreciate.

A Child that lives with sharing learns to be considerate.

A Child that lives with knowledge learns wisdom.

A Child that lives with patience learns to be tolerant.

A Child that lives with happiness will find love and beauty.

--Ronald Russell

Children have more need of models than of critics.

--Joseph Joubert

The greatest natural resource that any country can have is its children.

--Danny Kaye

It is very difficult to cheat a gifted child out of making good use of his intellectual abilities, but is very easy to cheat him out of his childhood....Enjoying childhood experiences to the full is the best preparation for becoming a mature adult.

--Bruno Bettelheim

If there is anything we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it to see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves.

--Carl Jung

Our children have been dismissed, disregarded, detained, and deferred. But they are not disposable.

--D. Briones

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

—Dorothy Law Nolte

All children are gifted; some just open their package sooner than others.

--Michael Carr

There is a period of childhood, until about age nine, when children should exist in a dreamlike state. Instead, they are being hardened too early, jarred into an awake adult consciousness that is preventing the natural development of their imaginations.

--Kay Hoffman

Men are what their mothers made them.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Much may be learned about any society by studying the behaviour and accepted ideas of its children, for children—and sometimes adults—are shadows of their parents, and what they believe and what they do are often what their parents believe in their hearts and would do if society would put up with it.

--Robertson Davies

A kid is a guy I never write down to. He's interested in what I say if I make it interesting. He is also the last container of a sense of humor, which disappears as he gets older, and he laughs only according to the way the boss, society, politics, or race, want him to. Then he becomes an adult. And an adult is an obsolete child.

--Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss)

The greatest terror a child can have is that he is not loved, and rejection is the hell of fears....And with rejection comes anger, and with anger some kind of crime in revenge.

--John Steinbeck

Childhood shows the man as a morning does the day.

--John Milton

Children are principally the creatures of example—whatever surrounding adults do, they will do.

--Josiah Warren

Who holds the souls of children, holds the nation.

--Unknown

If you're deprived of love when you're young, you can never have it given back to you.

--Jerry Lewis

Do not mistake a child for his symptom.

--Erik Erikson

You can almost be certain that the man who commits violent crimes has been treated violently as a child.

--Karl Menninger

What's done to children, they will do to society.

--Karl Menninger

Children are remarkable for their intelligence and ardor, for their curiosity, their intolerance of shams, the clarity and ruthlessness of their vision.

--Aldous Huxley

Give to a pig when it grunts and a child when it cries, and you will have a fine pig and a bad child.

--Danish Proverb

A person's a person, no matter how small.

--Dr. Seuss

I see children as kites. You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you're both breathless...they crash...they hit the rooftop...you patch and comfort, adjust and teach. You watch them lifted by the wind and assure them that someday they'll fly. Finally they are airborne; they need more string and you keep letting it out. But with each twist of the ball of twine, there is a sadness that goes with joy. The kite becomes more distant, and you know it won't be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that binds you together and will soar as it is meant to soar, free and alone. Only then do you know that you did your job.

--Irma Bombeck

We pray for children

who put chocolate fingers everywhere,
who like to be tickled,
who stomp in puddles and ruin their new pants,
who sneak Popsicles before supper,
who erase holes in math workbooks,
who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for children

who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,
who can't bound down the street in a new pair of sneakers,
who never 'counted potatoes,'
who are born in places we wouldn't be caught dead,
who never go to the circus,
who live in an x-rated world.

We pray for children

who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,
who sleep with the dog and bury goldfish,
who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money,

who cover themselves with Band-aids and sing off key,
who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink,
who slurp their soup.

And we pray for those

who never get dessert,
who have no safe blanket to drag around behind,
who watch their parents watch them die,
who can't find any bread to steal,
who don't have rooms to clean up,
whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
whose monsters are real.

We pray for children

who spend all their allowance before Tuesday,
who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food,
who like ghost stories,
who shove dirty clothes under the bed and never rinse out the tub,
who get visits from the tooth fairy,
who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool,
who squirm in church and scream in the phone,
whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those

whose nightmares come in the daytime,
who will eat anything,
who have never seen a dentist,
who aren't spoiled by anybody,
who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
who live and move but have no being.

We pray for children who want to be carried and for those who must,

For those we never give up on and for those who don't get a second chance.

For those we smother...and for those who will grab the hand of
anybody kind enough to offer it.

--Ina Hughs

If all children had a safe harbor—none would be at risk.

--Unknown

Nature makes boys and girls lovely to look upon so they can be tolerated until they
acquire some sense.

—Lyon Phelps

A child is a curly, dimpled lunatic.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

All children are essentially criminal.

—Denis Diderot

Of all the animals, the boy is the most unmanageable.

—Plato

Young people are more hopeful at a certain age than adults, but I suspect that's glandular. As for children, I keep as far from them as possible. I don't like the sight of them. The scale is all wrong. The heads tend to be too big for the bodies, and the hands and feet are a disaster. They keep falling into things. The nakedness of their bad character! We adults have learned how to disguise our terrible character, but children, well, they are like grotesque drawings of *us*. They should be neither seen nor heard, and no one must make another one.

—Gore Vidal

If help and salvation are to come, they can only come from the children, for the children are the makers of men.

—Montessori

There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it.

—Chinese Proverb

Children are the only future of any people. If the children's lives are squandered, and if the children...are not fully developed at whatever cost and sacrifice, the people will have consigned themselves to certain death.

--Frances Cress Welsing

There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in.

--Deepak Chopra

Every child born into the world is a new thought of God, an ever-fresh and radiant possibility.

--Kate Douglas Wiggin

Children reinvent your world for you.

--Susan Sarandon

I see the mind of the five-year-old as a volcano with two vents: destructiveness and creativeness.

--Sylvia Ashton-Warner

There is nothing more atrociously cruel than an adored child.

--Vladimir Nabokov

There is no end to the violations committed by children on children.

--Elizabeth Bowen

A child in itself is not an imperfect creature, he is not a half-ready adult, but he is an independent individual. So a tadpole is satisfied with itself, its operation is as perfect as that of a frog and it is not an imperfect, insufficiently functioning frog!...If a child is an independent creature with a whole life, an individual with specific needs, then we can draw the conclusion that education, from the child's point, is not preparation for life but it is life itself.

--Claparede

There are three ways to get something done: do it yourself, employ someone or forbid your child to do it.

--Monta Crane

When I can no longer bear to think of the victims of broken homes, I begin to think of the victims of intact ones.

--Peter DeVries

I take my children everywhere, but they always find their way back home.

--Robert Orben

In all our efforts to provide 'advantages' we have actually produced the busiest, most competitive, highly pressured, and over-organized generation of youngsters in our history—and possibly the unhappiest.

--Eda J. LeShan

You will find as the children grow up that as a rule children are a bitter disappointment—their greatest object being to do precisely what their parents do not wish and have anxiously tried to prevent.

--Queen Victoria

It is the duty of children to wait on elders and not the elders on children.

--Kenyan Proverb

BABY BOOK

To a baby a book is a brick.

A solid, colored, block.

Eye it, lick it, chew it,

And try to pry it open.

The contents are still sealed

The wonders inside are yet to be revealed.

—Dan L. Miller

Childhood is another country.

—Antoine de
Saint-Exupéry

We must remember that children are new, and the whole world is new to them. We learn about the world through our senses—sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. Children are still learning. They understand everything about the world through their senses.

—Ursula Nordstrom

Every child is born blessed with a vivid imagination. But just as a muscle grows flabby with disuse, so the bright imagination of a child pales in later years if he ceases to exercise it.

—Walt Disney

You may give (children) your love but not your thoughts,

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow.

--Kahlil Gibran

You are worried about seeing him spend his early years in doing nothing. What! Is it nothing to be happy? Nothing to skip, play, and run around all day long? Never in his life will he be so busy again.

--Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Listen to the MUSTN'TS,
Listen to the DON'TS,
Listen to the SHOULDN'TS,
Listen to the NEVER HAVES,
Then listen close to me.
Anything can happen, child,
ANYTHING can be.

--Shel Silverstein

When a boy is eleven years old you had better find something to engage his interest. I offer it as a theorem that a boy that age is either doing something or breaking something.

--Jerrold R. Zacharias

I have been assured by a very knowing American of my acquaintance in London, that a young healthy child well nursed is at a year old a most delicious, nourishing, and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled, and I make no doubt that it will equally serve in a fricassee, or a ragout.

--Jonathan Swift

All God's children are not beautiful. Most of God's children are, in fact, barely presentable.

--Fran Lebowitz

Cuteness in children is totally an adult perspective. The children themselves are unaware that the quality exists, let alone its desirability, until the reactions of grownups inform them.

--Leontine Young

Kids are without a doubt the most suspicious diners in the world. They will eat mud (raw or baked) rocks, paste, crayons, ball-point pens, moving goldfish, cigarette butts, and cat food. Try to coax a little beef stew into their mouths and they look at you like a puppy when you stand over him with the Sunday paper rolled up.

--Erma Bombeck

A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement. It is our misfortune that for most of us that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe-inspiring, is dimmed and even lost before we reach adulthood.

--Rachel Carson

Children are born as individuals. If we fail to see that, if we see them as clay to be molded in any shape we like, the tougher ones will fight back and end up spiteful and wild, while the less strong will lose that uniqueness they were born with.

--Melvin Konner

Grandchildren are the dots that connect the lines from generation to generation.

--Lois Wyse

Parents sometimes think of newborns as helpless creatures, but in fact parents' behavior is much more under the infant's control than the reverse. Does he come running when you cry?

--Sandra Scarr

A baby is a blank cheque made payable to the human race.

--Barbara Christine
Seifert

A child is like a precious stone, but also a heavy burden.

--Swahili Proverb

Little children disturb your sleep; big ones your life.

--Yiddish Proverb

Mankind owes to the child the best it has to give.

--*United Nations
Convention on the
Rights of the Child*

The house with no child in it is a house with nothing in it.

--Welsh Proverb

It is children who are God's presence, promise and hope for mankind.

--Marian Wright
Edelman

Children make your life important.

--Erma Bombeck

Young children step on your feet; older children step on your heart.

--Modern Proverb

Here all mankind is equal: rich and poor alike, they love their children.

--Euripides

God sent children for another purpose than merely to keep up the race—to enlarge our hearts; and to make us unselfish and full of kindly sympathies and affections; to give our souls higher aims; to call out all our faculties to extended enterprise and exertion; and to bring round our firesides bright faces, happy smiles, and loving, tender hearts.

--Mary Botham Howitt

For me, the child is a veritable image of becoming, of possibility, poised to reach towards what is not yet, towards a growing that cannot be predetermined or prescribed. I see her and I fill the space with others like her, risking, straining, wanting to find out, to ask their own questions, to experience a world that is shared.

--Maxine Greene

In everything from athletic ability to popularity to looks, brains, and clothes, children rank themselves against others. At this age (7 and 8), children can tell you with amazing accuracy who has the coolest clothes, who tells the biggest lies, who is the best reader, who runs the fastest, and who is the most popular boy in the third grade.

--Stanley I. Greenspan

Today's children are living a childhood of firsts. They are the first day care generation; the first truly multicultural generation; the first generation to grow up in the electronic bubble, the environment defined by computers and new forms of television; the first postsexual revolution; the first generation for which nature is more abstraction than reality; the first generation to grow up in new kinds of dispersed, deconcentrated cities, not quite urban, rural, or suburban.

--Richard Louv

A child is nothing like a racing car....Souping up babies doesn't work that way. The child is what she is. There is a certain irreducible if elusive core. Pushing, pulling, stretching, and shrinking will not really change it. There may be spectacular interim results. The baby may say the alphabet before she walks, master two-times or even ten-times table at three. In the long run, however, this forced precocity tends to be irrelevant....Whatever gains there are become unimportant. The losses can be irrevocable.

--Stella Chess

Each of us enters the world because hope for the future preceded us.

--Marge Kennedy

Children need time to stare at a wall, daydream over a picture book, make mud pies, kick a ball around, whistle a tune or play the kazoo—to do the things today's adults had time to do when they were growing up.

--Leslie Dreyfous

Today's pressures on middle-class children to grow up fast begin in early childhood. Chief among them is the pressure for early intellectual attainment, deriving from a changed perception of precocity. Several decades ago precocity was looked upon with great suspicion. The child prodigy, it was thought, turned out to be a neurotic adult; thus the phrase 'early ripe, early rot!'

--David Elkind

Children who are pushed into adult experience do not become precociously mature. On the contrary, they cling to childhood longer, perhaps all their lives.

--Peter Neubauer

The situation of our youth is not mysterious. Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them. They must; they have no other models.

--James Baldwin

A 'snapshot' feature in *USA Today* listed the five greatest concerns parents and teachers had about children in the '50s: talking out of turn, chewing gum in class, doing homework, stepping out of line, cleaning their rooms. Then it listed the five top concerns of parents today: drug addiction, teenage pregnancy, suicide and homicide, gang violence, anorexia and bulimia. We can also add AIDS, poverty, and homelessness....Between my own childhood and the advent of my motherhood—one short generation—the culture had gone completely mad.

--Mary Kay Blakely

The U.S. is becoming an increasingly fatherless society. A generation ago, an American child could reasonably expect to grow up with his or her father. Today an American child can reasonably expect not to. Fatherlessness is now approaching a rough parity with fatherhood as a defining feature of American childhood.

--David Blankenhorn

The child's life goes on for what seems to him long years in a single street of his town or in his city block.

--Sherwood Anderson

Poor children live in a particularly dangerous world—an urban world of broken stair railings, of busy streets serving as playgrounds, of lead paint, rats and rat poisons, or a rural world where families do not enjoy the minimal levels of public health accepted as standard for nearly a century. Whether in city or country, this is a world where cavities go unfilled and ear infections threatening permanent deafness go untreated. It is a world where even a small child learns to be ashamed of the way he or she lives.

--Kenneth Keniston

Children are extraordinarily precious members of society; they are exquisitely alert, sensitive, and conscious of their surroundings; and they are extraordinarily vulnerable to maltreatment or emotional abuse by adults who refuse to give them the profound respect and affection to which they are unconditionally entitled.

--Barbara Coloroso

The people hardest to convince that they should retire are children at bedtime.

-- Shannon Fife

The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers.

--Socrates

When we hear the baby laugh, it is the loveliest thing that can happen to us.

--Sigmund Freud

A baby is an inestimable blessing and a bother.

--Mark Twain

Childhood is frequently a solemn business for those inside it.

--George F. Will

The experiences of the first three years of life are almost entirely lost to us, and when we attempt to enter into a small child's world, we come as foreigners who have forgotten the landscape and no longer speak the native tongue.

--Selma Fraiberg

Why do grandparents and grandchildren get along so well together? Perhaps the best answer is the one I heard from a psychiatrist recently: 'Because they have a common enemy—the parents.'

--Sydney J. Harris

Wealth does not corrupt nor does it ennoble. But wealth does govern the minds of privileged children, gives them a particular kind of identity they never lose, whether they grow up to be stockbrokers or communards, and whether they lead healthy or unstable lives.

--Robert Coles

We just must not, we just cannot afford the great waste that comes from the neglect of a single child.

--Lyndon B. Johnson

In the eyes of its mother every beetle is a gazelle.

--Moroccan Proverb

Grown men may learn from little children, for the hearts of little children are pure, and, therefore, the Great Spirit may show to them many things which older people miss.

--Black Elk

Each second we live is a new and unique moment of the universe, a moment that never was before and will never be again. And what do we teach our children in school? We teach them that two and two make four and that Paris is the capital of France. When will we also teach them what they are? We should say to each of them....'Do you know what you are?' You are a marvel. You are unique. In all of the world there is no other child exactly like you. In the millions of years that have passed there has never been another child like you. And look at your body....what a wonder it is! You may become a Shakespeare, a Michelangelo, a Beethoven. You have the capacity for anything. Yes, you are a marvel. And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is, like you, a marvel? You must cherish one another. You must work; we all must work to make this world worthy of its children. The love of one's country is a natural thing. But why should love stop at the border? We are all leaves of a tree and the tree is humanity.

--Pablo Casals

Cherishing children is the mark of a civilized society.

--Joan Ganz Cooney

No one has yet realized the wealth of sympathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true educator should be to unlock that treasure.

--Emma Goldman

Children are unpredictable. You never know what inconsistency they're going to catch you in next.

--Franklin P. Jones

Children are the sum of what parents contribute to their lives.

--Richard L. Strauss

Children teach the world how to love. They teach us to look past a person's skin color right to his or her heart. They teach us how to be honest, open, and innocent. And they teach us how to hug and laugh and be enthusiastic. Children make us keep our promises because they never forget one that we make. They even make us into scientists and professors by asking why about everything that moves and many things that don't.

--*www.alphabetsoup.com*

Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.

--Tatenka Iyotak (Sitting Bull)

If America hopes to secure its future, children must come first.

--Ernest L. Boyer

We must all work to make the world worthy of its children.

--Pablo Casals

Children can catch fear and hatred from people around them more quickly than they catch measles.

--Norman Vincent Peale

What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all its children.

--John Dewey

What its children become, that will the community become.

--Suzanne La Follette

Before I got married I had six theories about bringing up children; now I have six children, and no theories.

--Lord Rochester

Having children is like having a bowling alley installed in your brain.

--Martin Mull

Children—Creatures who disgrace you by exhibiting in public the example you set for them at home.

--Unknown

To babies. They will make love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, bank accounts smaller, homes happier, clothes shabbier, the past forgotten, and the future worth living for.

--Unknown

It is a mystery why adults expect perfection from children. Few grownups can get through a whole day without making a mistake.

--Marcelene Cox

Make no mistake about why these babies are here—they are here to replace us.

--Jerry Seinfeld

Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

--Dennis Fakes

There are only two things a child will share willingly; communicable diseases and its mother's age.

--Benjamin Spock

Instead of needing lots of children, we need high-quality children.

--Margaret Mead

The solution to adult problems tomorrow depends on large measure upon how our children grow up today.

--Margaret Mead

Even when freshly washed and relieved of all obvious confections, children tend to be sticky.

--Fran Lebowitz

I must take issue with the term 'a mere child,' for it has been my invariable experience that the company of a mere child is infinitely preferable to that of a mere adult.

--Fran Lebowitz

I never met anyone who didn't have a very smart child. What happens to these children, you wonder, when they reach adulthood?

--Fran Lebowitz

If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life, as an unfailing antidote against boredom and disenchantments of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things that are artificial, the alienation from our sources of strength.

--Rachel Carson

In short, the habits we form from childhood make no small difference, but rather they make all the difference.

--Aristotle

Every child is born a genius.

--R. Buckminster Fuller

Where children are, there is the golden age.

--Novalis

Children are the only future of a people.

--Frances Cress Welsing

The solution of adult problems tomorrow depends in large measure upon how our children grow up today.

--Margaret Mead

Allow children to be happy in their own way, for what better way will they ever find?

--Samuel Johnson

Making terms with reality, with things as they are, is full-time business for the child.

--Milton R. Sapirstein

TO ALL THE KIDS WHO SURVIVED THE 1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's!!

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead-base paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, locks on doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had baseball caps not helmets on our heads.

As infants & children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, no booster seats, no seat belts, no air bags, bald tires and sometimes no brakes.

Riding in the back of a pick- up truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and no one actually died from this.

We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter and bacon. We drank Kool-Aid made with real white sugar. And, we weren't overweight. WHY?

Because we were always outside playing...that's why!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And, we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride them down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's and X-boxes. There were no video games, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies or DVDs, no surround-sound or CDs, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet and no chat rooms.

WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever.

We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls and, although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.

Imagine that!!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever.

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

If YOU are one of them? CONGRATULATIONS!

—*www.corsinet.com*

If we want to educate a person in virtue we must polish him at a tender age. And if someone is to advance toward wisdom he must be opened up for it in the first years of his life when his industriousness is still burning, his mind is malleable, and his memory still strong.

--Comenius

Children...feel their needs intensely and strive ruthlessly to fill them.

--Sigmund Freud

I have my own room

computer

dirt bike

stereo

skis

and VCR

I don't see why they think

it's a good idea for me to

get a paper route.

--Robert Ricken , *Love Me
When I'm Most
Unlovable*

You know that children are growing up when they start asking questions that have answers.

--John J. Plomp

Children often feel a kinship with older people. Both groups are underestimated, overlooked, marginalized, ignored, stereotyped, talked down to, and bossed around. Oh—and given boring gifts.

--Elizabeth Berg

Recent studies show that kids spend at least four hours a day on social and recreational media, distracted and disengaged from the world and each other.

--Lee Siegel

When I was a kid my parents moved a lot, but I always found them.

--Rodney Dangerfield

If not in my books or in my life, at least in my dreams I would live perennially as [my father's] little son, with the conscience of a little son, just as he would remain alive there not only as my father but as *the* father, sitting in judgment on whatever I do.

--Philip Roth

In their landmark survey of single parenthood, Sara McLanahan and Gary Sandefur showed that children in single-parent homes do not do as well as children who are living with both biological parents. They are more likely to have trouble in school, more likely to drop out of school and, later, more likely to become single parents themselves. Some of this is simply the fact that unstable people are more likely to become single parents and also more likely to have difficulty parenting. But even the children of widows and widowers do worse on many measures than children of intact homes—a problem that was recognized back in the 19th century, when disease and work accidents frequently carried off parents in their prime. Something about living with only one parent holds kids back. That ‘something’...is fewer resources. The Internet overflows with essays on the resourcefulness, grit, and sheer heroism of single parents who manage to be ‘both mother and father’ to their children. But while we should have nothing but admiration for people who do their best in a bad situation, we should still recognize that for the child, and often for the parent, it’s a bad situation.

--Megan McArdle

The preciousness of life becomes especially profound when you’ve held a dying child in your arms and look into the faces of parents, their eyes weary from sleepless hours of pacing waiting rooms. I’ve witnessed the unbendable spirit of the children, whose strength and optimism burns within them. Only then do you understand the real and fragile beauty of life.

--Marlo Thomas

We may think that kids have a natural fascination with phones. Really, children have a fascination with whatever Mom and Dad find fascinating. If they are fascinated by the flowers coming up in the yard, that’s what the children are going to find fascinating. And if Mom and Dad can’t put down the device with the screen, that child is going to think, *That’s where it’s all at; that’s where I need to be!*

--Linda Stone

My mom should make eye contact with me when she talks to me. I used to watch TV with my dad, but now he has his iPad, and I watch by myself.

—Child Interviewed by
Linda Stone

Childhood: the period of human life intermediate between the idiocy of infancy and the folly of youth - two removes from the sin of manhood and three from the remorse of age.

--Ambrose Bierce

A child can teach an adult three things: to be happy for no reason, to always be busy with something, and to know how to demand with all his might that which he desires.

--Paulo Coelho

Boyhood is the longest time in life for a boy. The last term of the school-year is made of decades, not of weeks, and living through them is like waiting for the millennium.

--Booth Tarkington

Small children disturb your sleep, big children your life.

--Yiddish Proverb

A three year old child is a being who gets almost as much fun out of a fifty-six dollar set of swings as it does out of finding a small green worm.

--Bill Vaughan

Everywhere, everywhere, children are the scorned people of the earth.

--Toni Morrison

It's easier for young girls than for young boys to behave: As is well established, they start elementary school with a developmental edge in some key areas. They have longer attention spans, more-advanced verbal and fine-motor skills, and greater social adeptness. They generally don't charge through the halls like wild animals, or get into fights during recess. Soon they learn that they are most valuable, and most in favor, when they do things the right way: neatly and quietly.

--Katty Kay and Claire
Shipman

Girls seem to be more easily socialized. They get a lot of praise for being perfect says Carol Dweck. In turn, they begin to crave the approval they get for being good. There's certainly no harm intended by overworked, overstressed teachers (or parents). Who doesn't want a kid who works hard and doesn't cause a lot of trouble?

--Katty Kay and Claire
Shipman

Play reaches the habits most needed for intellectual growth.

—Bruno Bettelheim

In a disparate world children are a unifying force capable of bringing us all together in support of a common ethic.

—Graco Mochel

Children have always taken risks and will continue to do so (which is why some experts argue that restricting them in every way imaginable only pushes them to go farther to find hazards that adults have not yet anticipated); children will always play with objects not intended to be toys; children will always use toys in ways the manufacturers—or the parents—do not recommend. They are driven to experiment and create; that is what developing human beings do.

--Christina Schwarz

We seem to have returned to the 18th century notion that play for its own sake is a waste of time, that children can be allowed to pursue their natural inclinations only if those can be channeled into activities that will prepare them to be orderly and productive...adults.

--Christina Schwarz

Childhood is not just preparation for 'real life,' it's a good portion of life itself. If the golden years of childhood are from ages 3 to 12, they encompass more than twice the time people spend in what is generally regarded as a focal point of life: the college years.

--Christina Schwarz

Childhood—those first, fresh experiences of the world, unclouded by reason and practicality, when you are the center of existence and anything might happen—should be regarded less as a springboard to striving adulthood than as a well of rich individual perception and experience to which you can return for sustenance throughout life, whether you rise in the world or not.

--Christina Schwarz

Children have a knack for simply living that adults can never regain. If they're allowed to exercise it a bit, perhaps they'll have childhoods worth remembering.

--Christina Schwarz

Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.

—Rabindranath Tagore

For these are all our children. We will all profit by or pay for what they become.

—James Baldwin

Our children are not going to be just ‘our children’ - they are going to be other people’s husbands and wives and the parents of our grandchildren.

—Mary S. Calderone

When you are younger, you are running on that pure naive adrenalin, you don’t have any real responsibility aside from making sure you get there and play. And there’s usually someone there to help you do that!

—Andy Taylor

The well-being and welfare of children should always be our focus.

—Todd Tiahrt

Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven.

—Henry Ward Beecher

Don’t set your wit against a child.

—Jonathan Swift

To the psychologist the mind of the child still gives an impression of appalling chaos.

—Claparede

As a person, the child is as important to himself as the teacher is to himself. As a member of society, the child is far more important than any teacher: The teacher is already one of the host of those gone by; the child is the future of mankind.

—W. R. Wees

Children remind you of the comfort of simplicity. They have compelling common sense, accessibility, honesty, and lack of pretense.

—Elizabeth Berg

‘Free range’ childhood became less common in the 1980s. The surge in crime from the ‘60s through the early ‘90s made Baby Boomer parents more protective than their own parents had been. Stories of abducted children appeared more frequently in the news, and in 1984, images of them began showing up on milk cartons. In response, many parents pulled in the reins and worked harder to keep their children safe.

—Greg Lukianoff and
Jonathan Haidt

Our present-day knowledge of the child's mind is comparable to the fifteenth-century map of the world—a mixture of truth and error. Vast areas remain to be explored.

—Arnold Gesell

The flight to safety also happened at school. Dangerous play structures were removed from playgrounds; peanut butter was banned from student lunches. After the 1999 Columbine massacre in Colorado, many schools cracked down on bullying, implementing 'zero tolerance' policies. In a variety of ways, children born after 1980—the Millennials—got a consistent message from adults: life is dangerous, but adults will do everything in their power to protect you from harm, not just from strangers but from one another as well.

—Greg Lukianoff and
Jonathan Haidt

Everything else you grow out of, but you never recover from childhood.

—Beryl Bainbridge

We look at the world once, in childhood.
The rest is memory.

—Louise Glück

Parents learn a lot from their children about coping with life.

—Muriel Spark

The worst feature of a new baby is its mother's singing.

—Kin Hubbard

The child benefits more from being valued than evaluated.

—Don Dinkmeyer

Children are NOT a distraction from more important work. They are THE MOST important work.

—C. S. Lewis

Babies are okay if you're into alarm clocks that poop.

—Unknown

A kid in an abusive home has far fewer rights than any POW. There is no Geneva Convention for kids.

—Andrew Vachss

Instead of seeing these children for the blessings that they are, we are measuring them only by the standard of whether they will be future deficits or assets for our nation's competitive needs.

—Jonathan Kozol

The kids who need the most love will ask for it in the most unloving of ways.

—[facebook.com/joyofmom](https://www.facebook.com/joyofmom)

Preschool classrooms have become increasingly fraught spaces, with teachers cajoling their charges to finish their 'work' before they can go play. And yet, even as preschoolers are learning more pre-academic skills at earlier ages, I've heard many teachers say that they seem somehow—is it possible?—less inquisitive and less engaged than the kids of earlier generations. More children today seem to lack the language skills needed to retell a simple story or use basic connecting words and prepositions. They can't make a conceptual analogy between, say, the veins on a leaf and the veins in their own hands.

—Erika Christakis

New research sounds a particularly disquieting note....Although children who had attended preschool initially exhibited more 'school readiness' skills when they entered kindergarten than did their non-preschool-attending peers, by the time they were in first grade their attitudes toward school were deteriorating. And by second grade they performed *worse* on tests measuring literacy, language, and math skills. The researchers told *New York* magazine that over-reliance on direct instruction and repetitive, poorly structured pedagogy were likely culprits; children who'd been subjected to the same insipid tasks year after year after year were understandably losing their enthusiasm for learning.

—Erika Christakis

In the past few decades we have seen a major transfer of child care and early learning from home to institution: Nearly three-quarters of American 4-year-olds are now in some kind of non-family care.

—Erika Christakis

When I survey parents of preschoolers....they fear that the old-fashioned pleasures of unhurried learning have no place in today's hyper-competitive world....The stress is palpable: Pick the 'wrong' preschool or ease up on the phonics drills at home, and your child might not go to college. She might not be employable. She might not even be allowed to start first grade!

—Erika Christakis

The real focus in the preschool years should be not just on vocabulary and reading, but on talking and listening. We forget how vital spontaneous, unstructured conversation is to young children's understanding. By talking with adults, and one another, they pick up information. They learn how things work. They solve puzzles that trouble them. Sometimes, to be fair, what children take away from a conversation is wrong. They might conclude, as my young son did, that pigs produce ham, just as chickens produce eggs and cows produce milk. But these understandings are worked over, refined, and adapted—as when a brutal older sibling explains a ham sandwich's grisly origins.

—Erika Christakis

A child's laugh could simply be one of the most beautiful sounds in the world.

—Vicki Reece

Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write and count. It is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace that is right for each individual child. Earlier is not better.

—Magda Gerber

Babies cannot and do not manipulate; they communicate. Listen.

—L. R. Knost

Toddler (n.) Emotionally unstable pint-sized dictator with the uncanny ability to know exactly how far to push you towards utter insanity before reverting to a lovable creature.

—Unknown

Behind every young child who believes in himself is a parent who believed first.

—Mathew L. Jacobson

Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.

—Fred Rogers

Play is the highest form of research.

—Albert Einstein

The opposite of play isn't work. The opposite of play is depression.

—Stuart Brown

35 million people in the U.S. are hungry or don't know where their next meal is coming from and 13 million of them are children . If another country were doing this to our children, we'd be at war.

—Jeff Bridges

A child should never be without a book.

—Unknown

Sometimes, you need to talk to a three year old so you can understand life again.

—Unknown

Living in that childish wonder is a most beautiful feeling - I can so well remember it. There was always something more - behind and beyond everything - to me, the golden spectacles were very, very big.

—Kate Greenaway

You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance.

—Franklin P. Jones

Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born in another time.

—Hebrew Proverb

There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.

—Walt Streightiff

Many things can wait. Children cannot. Today their bones are being formed, their blood is being made, their senses are being developed. To them we cannot say 'tomorrow.' Their name is today.

—Gabriela Mistral

A child's creativity is only limited by their parents' willingness to clean up after them.

—Robert John Meehan

Children cannot bounce off the walls if we take away the walls.

—Erin Kenny

The habits we form from childhood make no small difference, but rather they make all the difference.

—Aristotle

If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all.

—Pearl S. Buck

We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today.

—Stacia Tauscher

Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me.

—Fred Rogers

Don't worry that children never listen to you. Worry that they are always watching you.

—Robert Fulghum

Children want the same things we want. To laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained, and delighted.

—Dr. Seuss

We spend the first twelve months of our children's lives teaching them to walk and talk and the next twelve telling them to sit down and shut up.

—Phyllis Diller

A toddler can do more in one unsupervised minute than most people can do all day.

—Unknown

I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

A child can live with anything as long as he or she is told the truth and is allowed to share with loved ones the natural feelings people have when they are suffering.

—Eda LeShan

Nothing that grieves us can be called little; by the external laws of proportion a child's loss of a doll and a king's loss of a crown are events of the same size.

—Mark Twain

Children's First Credo

I believe in children's laughter, the sweetest perfume of a newborn baby's skin and that every child is entitled to happiness, decent housing, health care, proper nutrition and a good education.

I believe that our schools should be places of discovery and growth, not of danger, that teachers should be paid more than lawyers and that parenting should be a required course in every high school.

I believe that 'quality time' is a phony notion that cannot substitute for substantial time spent with our children.

I believe that baseball and other children's games can be magical and should be wrestled from screaming competitive coaches and returned to play.

I believe that childhood should be a time of sand castles and celebration and that the defense of innocence is as important as the defense of our borders.

And I believe that our most urgent mission should be putting the needs of our children first.

—Unknown

MEMO FROM YOUR CHILD

1. Don't spoil me. I know quite well that I ought not have all that I ask for, I'm only testing you.
2. Don't be afraid to be firm with me, I prefer it. It makes me feel more secure.
3. Don't let me form bad habits, I have to rely on you to detect them in the early stages.
4. Don't make me feel smaller than I am, It only makes me behave stupidly big.
5. Don't correct me in front of people if you can help it.
6. Don't make me feel that my mistakes are sins, it upsets my set of values.
7. Don't be upset when I say 'I hate you,' it's not you I hate, but your power to hinder.

8. Don't protect me from consequences, I need to learn the painful way sometimes.
9. Don't nag, if you do I will need to protect myself by appearing deaf.
10. Don't make rash promises, remember I feel badly let down when promises are broken.
11. Don't tax my honesty too much, I am easily frightened into telling lies.
12. Don't be inconsistent, that completely confuses me and makes me lose faith in you.
13. Don't tell me my fears are silly, they are terribly real to me and you can do much to reassure me if you try to understand.
14. Don't ever suggest that you are perfect or infallible. It gives me too great a shock when I discover that you are neither.
15. Don't forget that I can't thrive without lots of love and understanding, but I don't need to tell you that, do I?

—Unknown

An Average Child

Many classrooms were my home,
And dozens of teachers called my name.
While thousands of dittos passed my way.
Each year was much the same.

For I was an average child,
With nothing important to say.
Practicing, practicing, practicing,
Preparing form some mythical day.

A day when I would be ready.
After I learned some other skill.
A day which never came.
After many years of drill.

For I was an average child,
Reminded by each and every one.
Promised that I would write
When the endless lists were done.

But while the chairs got bigger,
And my shirt size too,
I was never quite ready to write,
The stories which I knew.

So during all those boring years,
A story was embedded in my head,
That I was just an average child,
No matter what I wrote or said.

Yes, many classrooms were my home,
And dozens of teachers called my name,
While I was practicing, practicing, practicing,
For a day that never came.

--Sigmund A. Boloz

The nimble foot, the hankering hand, the itching mind, the yearning heart, the vibrant voice, the scintillating eye, the creative spirit—the child.

--Gladys Andrews
Fleming

Let me grow as I be. And try to understand why I want to grow like me;
Not like my mom wants to be
Nor like my dad hopes I'll be
Or my teacher thinks I should be
Please try to understand and help me grow
Just like me!

--Gladys Andrews
Fleming

Our capacity to command our cognitive and affective processes is heavily influenced
by the character of our early lives both at home and school.

--Richard Paul

Too many people grow up. That's the real trouble with the world, too many people grow up. They forget. They don't remember what it's like to be 12 years old. They patronize, they treat children as inferiors.

—Walt Disney

Children organizing for political rights will probably be treated initially with ridicule and derision, and then with misunderstanding and perhaps eventually violence if the experience of the struggle for women's suffrage is any precedent. Undoubtedly the greatest obstacle to be overcome is the adult refusal to acknowledge that children suffer political discrimination and exclusion. Adults do not perceive children as a minority group but as helpless, inexperienced, defenseless young people who need protection. Adult paternalism seeks to protect and if in this process it curtails freedom, truncates potential and destroys civil liberties this is taken to be incidental. The belief in the legitimacy of paternalism justifies and cements the existing power relationships between adults and young people. This attitude must be confronted, challenged and refuted if young people are to secure their political rights...

—Bob Franklin

We are all creative, but by the time we are three or four years old, someone has knocked the creativity out of us. Some people shut up the kids who start to tell stories. Kids dance in their cribs, but someone will insist they sit still. By the time the creative people are ten or twelve, they want to be like everyone else.

—Maya Angelou

I must take issue with the term 'a mere child,' for it has been my invariable experience that the company of a mere child is infinitely preferable to that of a mere adult.

—Fran Lebowitz

If I am young and wrong, then you are right [to look down on my youthful ignorance.] But if I am young and right, what does my age matter?

—Aesculus

The solution of adult problems tomorrow depends in large measure upon the way our children grow up today. There is no greater insight into the future than recognizing that, when we save children, we save ourselves.

—Margaret Mead

A toddling little girl is a centre of common feeling which makes the most dissimilar people understand each other.

—George Eliot

Whether children have first amendment rights is a vexed legal question, but what is not in question is that they someday will. Constraining them from expressing their views is no preparation for exercising those rights.

—Crispin Sartwell

From an early age we're taught and trained, oppressed and stained to an extent beyond our imagination at that time Shown that we should stay put, sit still, hold on, walk, don't run, and be quiet, whatever you do, be quiet.

—Robert Grant

A house without books is like a room without windows. No man has a right to bring up his children without surrounding them with books, if he has the means to buy them. It is a wrong to his family. Children learn to read by being in the presence of books. The love of knowledge comes with reading and grows upon it. And the love of knowledge, in a young mind, is almost a warrant against the inferior excitement of passions and vices.

—Horace Mann

Consider children as a beat. Clearly not an institution of power, children don't vote and they don't pass taxes. They have no money, and they don't buy newspapers or watch the news on television. Consequently, children are one of the most neglected segments of society in the news, except as a subtopic of other power beats such as education, family, and crime. Children are in serious trouble in this society, which means the foundation of our society is in trouble, which means the future is in trouble, and that is news.

--Joan Konner

Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children.

—Walt Disney

I am a toddler. I am not built to sit still, keep my hands to myself, take turns, be patient, stand in line, or keep quiet. I need motion, I need novelty, I need adventure, and I need to engage the world with my whole body. Let me play. (Trust me, I'm learning.)

—Unknown

Too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve.

--Roger Lewin

We like children who are a little afraid of us, docile, deferential children, though not, of course, if they are so obviously afraid that they threaten our image of ourselves as kind, lovable people whom there is no reason to fear. We find ideal the kind of 'good' children who are just enough afraid of us to do everything we want, without making us feel that fear of us is what is making them do it.

--John Holt

If, in instructing a child, you are vexed with it for want of adroitness, try, if you have never tried before; to write with your left hand, and then remember that a child is all left hand.

--J. F. Boyse

Children are notoriously curious about everything—everything except...the things people want them to know. It then remains for us to refrain from forcing any kind of knowledge upon them, and they will be curious about everything.

--Floyd Dell

Children who are treated as if they are uneducable almost invariably become uneducable.

--Kenneth B. Clark

Children are our hope for the future. We are the hope for theirs.

--Lee Canter

When I look at the smiles on all the children's faces, I just know they're about to jab me with something.

--Homer Simpson

Except as the child reveals himself to us we can never know him; and to obtain these revelations requires the most sensitive tuning of the teacher's own mind. The key to knowing is acceptance, and the key to acceptance lies in the second of the two meanings of nurture: to cherish. To cherish a child does not mean to smother him with affection. To cherish means to hold dear, to value the child not only as one must value a human being for his social potential, but as one must value a human being for his own sake.

—W. R. Wees

Youth is a wonderful thing. What a crime it is to waste it on children!

--George Bernard Shaw

Regardless of what the law or your teachers have to say about this, you are as human as anyone over the age of 18 or 21, yet, ‘minors’ are one of the most oppressed groups of people in the world, and certainly the most discriminated against legally.

—Grace
Llewellyn

Don't let anyone think little of you because you are young.

—1 Timothy 4:12

Children who do hear stories and are read stories from early on have an intuitive understanding of how one thing resolutely leads into another, that things in life are connected, whereas children who do not hear stories do not hear that connectedness. They think that incidents happen without connection, that life is a series of disconnected bursts that happen to you.

—Jane Yolen

Children are the rainbow of life. Grandchildren are the pot of gold.

—Irish Blessing

Our grandchildren accept us for ourselves, without rebuke or effort to change us, as no one in our entire lives has ever done, not our parents, siblings, spouses, friends—and hardly ever our own grown children.

—Ruth Goode

The habits we form from childhood make no small difference, but rather they make all the difference.

—Aristotle

The most important fact about those who attend elementary school is that they are children. Unlike high school and college students, elementary school pupils are still navigating the high seas of early development, exploring a new world of information, and seeking to master their own minds and bodies in the process. Young children are full of contradictions. They are stubborn and malleable; persistent and distracted; charming and incorrigible. So, in discussing educational practices and policies that will affect them, let us begin by stipulating their uniqueness.

—William J. Bennett

We can never put ourselves in the shoes of children; we cannot fathom their thoughts, we lend them ours; and always following our own reasoning, we stuff their heads with extravagance and error.

—Jean-Jacques
Rousseau

No social problem is as universal as the oppression of the child.

—Maria Montessori

Normally an infant learns to use his mother as a ‘beacon of orientation’ during the first five months of life. The mother’s presence is like a fixed light that gives the child the security to move out safely to explore the world and then return safely to harbor.

—Louise J. Kaplan

Scientific observation then has established that education is not what the teacher gives; education is a natural process spontaneously carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words but by experiences upon the environment.

—Maria Montessori

Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.

—Maria Montessori

To Tennessee Williams, children were ‘no-neck monsters,’ while William Wordsworth apotheosized the newborn infant as a ‘Mighty Prophet Seer Blest.’ Most adults know the truth is somewhere in between.

—Eloise Salholz

Our children need to be treated as human beings—exquisite, complex and elegant in their diversity.

—Lloyd Dennis

In the elementary grades, many teachers are experimenting with new ways to involve students in their own experience. There is pressure emanating from a growing force for more personalized living, to make schools human places, to return students to their life as children, to allow them to believe that it is worthwhile, perhaps even special, to be a child and not to be an ongoing performer seeking institutional rewards.

--Carl Weinberg

A child’s mind is like a shallow brook which ripples and dances merrily over the stony course of its education and reflects here a flower, there a bush, yonder a fleecy cloud...

--Helen Keller

Children are notoriously curious about everything—everything except...the things people want them to know. It then remains for us to refrain from forcing any kind of knowledge upon them, and they will be curious about everything.

--Floyd Dell

I won't always cry, Mummy
When you leave the room
And my supermarket tantrums
Will end too soon.

I won't always wake, Daddy
For cuddles through the night
And one day you will miss
Having a chocolate face to wipe.

You won't always wake to find my foot
Is kicking you out of bed
Or find me sideways on your pillow
Where you want to lay your head.

You won't always have to carry me
In asleep from the car
Or piggy back me down the road
When my little legs can't walk that far.

So cherish every cuddle
Remember them all
One day, Mummy
I won't be this small.

—*The Learning Station*

Having a 2-year-old is kind of like having a blender without a lid.

—Jerry Seinfeld

My hands were busy through the day,
I didn't have much time to play
The little games you asked me to,
I didn't have much time for you.
I'd wash your clothes, I'd sew and cook

But when you'd bring your picture book
And ask me please to share your fun,
I'd say, 'A little later, Son.'
But life is short, the years rush past,
A little boy grows up so fast!

Now the picture books are put away,
There aren't any games to play
No good night kiss, no prayers to hear;
That all belongs to yesteryear.
My hands once busy, now lie still,
The days are long and hard to fill,
I wish I might go back and do
The little things you asked me to!

--Alice Chase

The most stressful situation that I have had is when my parents were divorced while I was in the 6th grade. As soon as they were divorced my mother's friend and her two kids moved in with my mom & my brother Steve. It was really hard on me and Steve because we wanted our dad to come back to live with us. And I just think, and then I start to cry. I try not to, but it gets me mad because I think my life is worth nothing.

—Anonymous Child

MY FATHER

Me and my father were never really close or nor was he close to my brother, Steve. We would never really talk or do anything when he was sober, but when he was drunk, it seemed like we were the perfect family.
My father was an alcoholic, a bad one too. He would drink until he woke up until he had to go to work. He woke up at around 11:00 am and he would leave for work at 2:00 pm. Then he would drink after he got out of work. He did this 6 days a week, and on Sunday we would just drink all day.
My father was an alcoholic for about three years, then he quit for about five years, until his dad died on my brother's birthday Then he started drinking again. His drinking had been getting worse. Finally one day I was outside with my cousin Kris playing ball. My parents were in the house talking. My mother called me in the house and told Kris to go home. When I came into the house I saw my dad getting ready for work, when he left, he didn't give my mom a kiss good-bye like he use to. My mom told me to sit down because she had to talked to me. When I sat down I asked her what was wrong. She said how would you feel about me and your father

getting a divorce. I told her that I would be mad and I didn't want my dad to leave. I guess she never took in what I felt about them getting a divorce. While they were still separated, my mom's friend moved in with her 2 kids. A boy and a girl.

While they were separated my dad had moved in with his mother. The divorce finally came through. They had been divorced for 7 or 8 years. When my dad moved out his drinking had been getting worse,

When my mom's friend moved in, me and my older brother never knew why until a couple of months later. They had been living with us for about 10 years. When I was older, because of the situation at my house I wanted to go and live with my father, but I wasn't sure if I wanted to live with an alcoholic. I never moved in with him, but I was scared to. So I never did.

When my brother was old enough to move out he signed up for the Navy. When I think about him joining the Navy, 'I say to myself' He was the smart one.

I would always go over to see my dad on the weekends. I only say him once a week. I wanted to see more of him, but I couldn't because I got out of school at 3:00 pm and he would leave for work at 2:00 pm.

When I did visit him, all he did was drink. All day, beer after beer. I remember one weekend I spent the night. Of course, he was drinking. It got to be so bad, that he opened a beer, drank half and he struggled to go to the refrigerator to get another. So he had 2 beers. I got up poured both cans down the drain. I was so upset I left his house around 1:00 am and went back home. After that incident I went back over there the day after. When I arrived he was still sleeping. When he woke up, he never knew that I had left.

His drinking became so bad, my mom, and her friend took my dad into the hospital because of his drinking and he had a bad back. When we took him in the hospital he was drunk. Ever time I went to the Hospital, he would be asleep. When he was better, we took him out of St. Lukes and transferred him to community Hospital, hoping that if he was in a alcoholism center he would stop drinking. he was in community for a month. I would go and visit him every day. He would show me around & we would just talk. That was the first we ever had a conversation. When he got to leave the hospital, I finally got up the nerve to tell him how proud I was for him to stop drinking. When I told him, he said that drinking is very dangerous. It can kill you & it almost killed me.

Ever since he got out of the Hospital, he hasn't touched a drop of alcohol. It has been about a year since he drank. Now all he drinks is pop & coffee. I am so happy that he quit. Now his life is back together & even though he doesn't have my mom, but he does have a son and daughter who loves him very much.

—Anonymous Child

A child can ask a thousand questions that the wisest man cannot answer.

--J. Abbott

Regardless of what the law or your teachers have to say about this, you are as human as anyone over the age of 18 or 21, yet, 'minors' are one of the most oppressed groups of people in the world, and certainly the most discriminated against legally.

—Grace Llewellyn

A childhood without books—that would be no childhood. That would be like being shut out from the enchanted place where you can go and find the rarest kind of joy.

—Astrid Lindgren

Children are as likely to fasten on to something bad as good. It depends on what is put before them. My kids...would live on lollipops and toffee, but they need a staple diet. If you let a child wander among a whole lot of rubbish he will choose rubbish. You must let him wander among good books and choose between the good...and the good.

--Brian Wildsmith

Children's books are surely among the most important books that can be published. The impressions a child receives from them are often intense and lasting. Unlike an adult reader, he comes to the book with no preconceived ideas. What do the critics say? Is it on an approved reading list? Is it relevant? He does not care. It is enough for him to be able to read it, one to one, privately.

--B. J. Chute

Some people may contend that there is no image more charming than a child holding a puppy or a kitten. But for me that's a distant second. When I see a child clutching a book...to his or her tiny bosom, I'm moved. Children can possess a book in a way they can never possess a video game, a TV show, or a Darth Vader doll. A book comes alive when they read it. They give it life themselves by understanding it.

--Chris Van Allsburg

Perhaps it is only in childhood that books have any deep influence on our lives...in childhood all books are books of divination, telling us about the future, and like the fortune-teller who sees a long journey in the cards or death by water, they influence the future. I suppose that is why books excited us so much. What do we ever get nowadays from reading to equal the excitement and the revelation of those first fourteen years?

--Graham Greene

You never love a book the way you do when you are 10.

--Daniel Handler

How clearly I remember my childhood experiences of being catapulted into a book world....That first tumble into Wonderland is not easily forgotten, and it's also something that can't quite be replicated in adult life with the same intensity. The worlds you inhabit in childhood are stitched into the fabric of who you will grow to be.

—Ammi-Joan Paquette

Books should be a part of every child's life. They should occupy a central place in home and classroom alike. Children should have at their fingertips books like *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *Winnie the Pooh*. This is the only way they will really grasp the idea that reading is a joy rather than a burden. Yet in a recent study of fifth graders' reading habits, 90 percent of the children were found to read books only four minutes a day or less. The same children may watch television an average of three and a half hours a day.

—William J. Bennett

My daughter is seven, and some of the other second-grade parents complain that their children don't read for pleasure. When I visit their homes, the children's rooms are crammed with expensive books, but the parent's rooms are empty. Those children do not see their parents reading, as I did every day of my childhood. By contrast, when I walk into an apartment with books on the shelves, books on the bedside tables, books on the floor, and books on the toilet tank, then I know what I would see if I opened the door that says 'PRIVATE--GROWNUPS KEEP OUT': a child sprawled on the bed, reading.

—Anne Fadiman

Her constant orders for beheading are shocking to those modern critics of children's literature who feel that juvenile fiction should be free of all violence and especially violence with Freudian undertones. Even the Oz books of L. Frank Baum, so singularly free of the horrors to be found in Grimm and Andersen, contain many scenes of decapitation. As far as I know, there have been no empirical studies of how children react to such scenes and what harm if any is done to their psyche. My guess is that the normal child finds it all very amusing and is not damaged in the least, but that books like *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *The Wizard of Oz* should not be allowed to circulate indiscriminately among adults who are undergoing analysis.

—Martin Gardner

On no days of our childhood did we live so fully perhaps as those we thought we had left behind without living them, those that we spent with a favourite book.

—Marcel Proust

Children ask of a story what they ask of a dream—that it satisfy their wishes.

--Randall Jarrell

A child without an acquaintance of some kind with a classic of literature...suffers from that impoverishment for the rest of his life. No later intimacy is like that of the first.

--Lizette Woodworth
Reese

By confining your child to blameless stories of child life in which nothing at all alarming ever happens, you will fail to banish the terrors, and would succeed in banishing all that can ennoble them or make them endurable.

—C. S. Lewis

It should be *Middlemarch* that changed my life, right? Except it didn't. Nor, really, did any other book read in adulthood. For a book to really change your life, you have to be young, your relationship to the world still pliable. Which puts me in mind of Robert Louis Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses*. I can still see its cover in my mind's eye, that free, fenced-in yard containing stylized, elongated animals—a lion that's being hugged by a little girl. The other children are all facing the camera and waving a warm welcome to...me!

—Richard Russo

We do not feed pabulum to children who are ready for meat and vegetables, and we should not feed verbal pabulum to children able to digest literature. Children learn to read by reading—and schools should provide plenty of opportunities for them to do so. Yet one study shows that in the typical primary school class, only seven or eight minutes per day are allotted to silent reading time. Children spend about 70 percent of the time allocated for reading instruction engaged in 'seatwork,' mostly on skill sheets and workbooks that may require only a perfunctory level of reading.

—William J. Bennett

If it's not good enough for adults, it's not good enough for children. If a book that is going to be marketed for children does not interest me, a grownup, then I am dishonoring the children for whom the book is intended, and I am dishonoring books. And words.

—Madeleine L'Engle

Let children read whatever they want and then talk about it with them. If parents and kids can talk together, we won't have as much censorship because we won't have as much fear.

--Judy Blume

When I was a child, I was often told not to spend so much time sitting by myself with a book. How would I learn anything about life, I was warned, if I spent it reading? As a child, I took these warnings seriously though I managed to keep on doing just what I wanted to do much of the time. But now, decades later, I can see that the advice was wrong. I learned far more about life from reading books than I would have from playing in the park or tossing a ball around with other children.

--Michael Korda

But reading is important. It is especially important to children. It is the key which unlocks the gates of formal education, the means by which the wisdom of the past and the technology of the present are made available. But it can do much more. Through reading, a child may live another's life for a few hours. He becomes Huck Finn and wrestles with the problem of laws that destroy freedom; or he is Johnny Tremain and learns in the time of the American Revolution how adversity may be put to good use....By learning to identify with others, to suffer or to rejoice as he encounters tragedy or joy, he can develop a sense of empathy towards the life around him—his fellow companions as well as the creatures of the world he inhabits.

--Scott O'Dell

The influence of early books is profound. So much of the future lies on the shelves. Early reading has more influence on the conduct than any religious training.

--Graham Greene

If we could get our parents to read to their preschool children fifteen minutes a day, we could revolutionize the schools.

--Dr. Ruth Love

Common sense should tell us that reading is the ultimate weapon—destroying ignorance, poverty and despair before they can destroy us. A nation that doesn't read much doesn't know much. And a nation that doesn't know much is more likely to make poor choices in the home, the marketplace, the jury box and the voting booth....The challenge, therefore, is to convince future generations of children that carrying a book is more rewarding than carrying guns.

--Jim Trelease

Children, in new research, gain much less from reading (or, in the new word, accessing) books on a screen than they do reading actual books. Perhaps adults do too.

—Michael Wolff

A child who reads will be an adult who thinks.

—Unknown

I believe that children in this country need a more robust literary diet than they are getting. ...It does not hurt them to read about good and evil, love and hate, life and death. Nor do I think they should read only about things that they understand. '...a man's reach should exceed his grasp.' So should a child's. For myself, I will never talk down to, or draw down to, children.

—Barbara Cooney

If children were read verse from the very earliest age, without being told solemnly that it is verse, in fact without being told what it is at all, they might feel that poetry is just as 'natural' as prose. We make such a fuss about the sanctity of verse, as if it were a kind of holy writ. Thus a good many children begin to be prejudiced against it.

--Clifton Fadiman

If a woman speaks and no one is listening, chances are her name is Mom.

—Ged Backland

Television has changed the American child from an irresistible force into an immovable object.

--Laurence J. Peter

Children who have been taught, or conditioned, to listen passively most of the day to the warm verbal communications coming from the TV screen, to the deep emotional appeal of the so-called TV personality, are often unable to respond to real persons because they arouse so much less feeling than the skilled actor.

--Bruno Bettelheim

It is television's primary damage that it provides ten million children with the same fantasy, ready-made and on a platter.

--Marya Mannes

Children who watch television every night will go down in history—not to mention arithmetic, geography, and science.

--Unknown

Television retards the development of the brain, blunts the senses and encourages mental laziness. It impairs children's sense of their own identity, their linguistic abilities and their attention span. Furthermore, because of their addiction to television, children are deprived of play and of the opportunity to participate in the interpersonal rituals of family life.

--Neil Postman

It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own.

--Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The average kindergartner is coming to school with 6,000 hours of television experience.

--Dr. Nancy Richardson

At times it seems that the media have become the mainstream culture in children's lives. Parents have become the alternative. Americans once expected parents to raise their children in accordance with the dominant cultural messages. Today they are expected to raise their children in opposition to it.

--Ellen Goodman

Not too many years ago, a child's experience was limited by how far he or she could ride a bicycle or by the physical boundaries that parents set. Today...the real boundaries of a child's life are set more by the number of available cable channels and videotapes, by the simulated reality of video games, by the number of megabytes of memory in the home computer. Now kids can go anywhere, as long as they stay inside the electronic bubble.

--Richard Louv

It is among the ranks of school-age children, those six-to twelve-year-olds who once avidly filled their free moments with childhood play, that the greatest change is evident. In the place of traditional, sometimes ancient childhood games that were still popular a generation ago, in the place of fantasy and make-believe play...today's children have substituted television viewing and, most recently, video games.

--Marie Winn

Television rots the senses in the head!
It kills imagination dead!
It clogs and clutters up the mind!
It makes a child so dull and blind
He can no longer understand
A fantasy, a fairyland!
His brain becomes as soft as cheese!
His powers of thinking rust and freeze!
He cannot think—he only sees!

--Roald Dahl

Isn't it odd that networks accept billions of dollars from advertisers to teach people to use products and then proclaim that children aren't learning about violence from their steady diet of it on television!

--Toni Liebman

It is commonly agreed that children spend more hours per year watching television than in the classroom, and far less in actual conversation with their parents.

—Paul Weyrich

Today, 2 year olds can unlock a phone, open and close their favorite apps all by themselves...When I was that age I was eating dirt.

—Unknown

It used to be the proverbial question: 'It's 10 o'clock, do you know where your children are?' Now your kid can be sitting a few feet away from you in the living room with a laptop, being damaged.

--Jamie Wasserman

With every child listening daily to the gems of good music, preference for the beautiful in music will follow as dawn follows night.

--Hollis Dann

The reason some parents want their children to play the piano instead of the violin is that it's harder to lose a piano.

--Unknown

The experience of dealing with the arts is necessary for younger children. For most of them, producing art is their introduction to the idea of work. They start learning the discipline that they will need to achieve their goals. They learn what powerful satisfaction work can provide. They learn to explore, and they experience success. These are the impulses a human being needs most if he is to work hard and happily in life, and no children's activity is better than art at instilling these attitudes.

--Leonard Garmet

The soul is healed by being with children.

—Fyodor Dostoevsky

Political history is far too criminal and pathological to be a fit subject of study for the young. Children should acquire their heroes and villains from fiction.

--W. H. Auden

In a recent report, researchers identified the phenomenon of the ‘Great Crossover’: American women are having children, on average, a year earlier than they are (again, on average) getting married. And the results for American children are not pretty.

--Megan McArdle

Every American baby has a 1 in 4 chance of being born in poverty here in the richest nation in the world. No other industrial nation allows its children to be the poorest part of their population.

--Marian Wright
Edelman

Remember that children, marriages, and flower gardens reflect the kind of care they get.

—H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Almost as soon as children learn to talk, they ask: ‘Where did I come from? Where do people go when they die? What’s beyond the sky? How did the world start? Who made God? Why is one and one two and not three?’ Virtually from the beginning of life, every human being becomes familiar with the questions that form the subject matter of philosophy.

—Manuel Velasquez and
Vincent Barry

Girls in the first few years of elementary school are less likely than boys to say that their own gender is ‘really, really smart,’ and less likely to opt into a game described as being for supersmart kids.

—Katherine Hobson

I remember the first time I was sick. I had gone to play with a boy, Luis León, and on the patio he threw a wooden log at my foot, and this was the pretext they used at home when my leg began to grow thin. I remember they said that it was a white tumor or paralysis. I missed a lot of school [Frida spent nine months in bed, and and at seven she wore (polio) booties]. I do not remember a lot, but I continued jumping, only not with the right leg anymore. I developed a horrible complex, and I hid my leg. I wore thick wool socks onto the knee, with bandages underneath. This happened when I was seven years old, and my papa and my mama begun to spoil me a lot and to love me more. The foot leaned to the side, and I limped a little. This was during the period when I had my imaginary friend. (9 September 1950)

—Frida Kahlo

The numbers are stark: One in four U.S. students will witness or experience a traumatic event before the age of 4, and more than two-thirds by age 16. These children do not—they cannot—simply close their eyes to what they’ve seen or experienced. With each forced eviction, each arrest of an adult in their home, each abuse to their own bodies, an instinctive trigger to ‘fight or flee’ is pulled over and again. Over time, a child’s developing brain is changed by these repeated traumatic experiences. Areas that govern the retention of memory, the regulation of emotion, and the development of language skills are affected. The result is a brain that has structurally adapted for survival under the most stressful circumstances,—but not for success in school.

—Mary Ellen Flannery

Black girls are 20 percent of preschool girls, but 54 percent of the girls facing out-of-school suspension in preschool. That number, and also the disparities around corporal punishment, are two points that show how schools are assessing threats among really young children. Those of us who have seen a 6-year-old throw a tantrum know they can throw a mean tantrum—but there are ways we can respond without pushing them out of school. What this says to me is that Black girls, from a very young age, are treated as disposable. What it also says is that we need to find ways to support them.

—Mary Ellen Flannery

When you’re a kid, you don’t think about big stuff that could change your life. You think about small things that might terrify you –like a bad report card or missing a goal in front of all your friends or your friends no longer wanting to play with you. Because that’s the biggest stuff you know. The biggest disappointments are all tied to this small little universe of yours, because bigger things cannot fit into a small universe. If you wanted bigger things in there you needed to have more room –or make more room. Perhaps you thought about your parents or your pets dying, which was rare. But all you knew was you would be terribly sad and lonely. And on those occasions when people or pets actually died, someone usually came along and distracted you from feeling too much of your actual feelings. Grownups did that – they never left you alone to feel alone or think alone too much. They tended to think you are too small to know how to think and feel in big heaps, so they took parts of your heap onto themselves. To help – but in the long run –it doesn’t help at all. Because if you do not see, or feel or think, or taste the bitter things in life, you don’t know they exist. You have not seen enough of the world to know how terrible it could be.

—Adelheid Manefeldt

A 'naughty child' doesn't exist - a child who acts out is simply a child with unmet needs.

—Birgitte Coste

Those children who are beaten will in turn give beatings, those who are intimidated will be intimidating, those who are humiliated will impose humiliation, and those whose souls are murdered will murder.

—Alice Miller

My father was predisposed to drunken rages. I would hide under the bed. My sister and I were talking just the other day about the terror a drunken man in a rage can create in a child.

--Antonio Villaraigosa

Any child who can spend an hour or two a day, or more if he wants, with adults that he likes, who are interested in the world and like to talk about it, will on most days learn far more from their talk than he would learn in a week of school.

—John Holt

In its natural state, the child tells the literal truth because it is too naive to think of anything else. Blurting out the complete truth is considered adorable in the young, right smack up to the moment that the child says, 'Mommy, is this the fat lady you can't stand?'

--Alan Clark

The childless experts on child raising also bring tears of laughter to my eyes when they say, 'I love children because they're so honest.' There is not an agent in the CIA or the KGB who knows how to conceal the theft of food, how to fake being asleep, or how to forge a parent's signature like a child.

--Bill Cosby

Children learn to lie from parents who teach them to say they don't want a second portion of ice cream.

—Unknown

Whenever a child lies you will always find a severe parent. A lie would have no sense unless the truth were felt to be dangerous.

--Alfred Adler

Pretty much all the honest truth telling there is in the world is done by children.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

When childhood dies, its corpses are called adults.

—Brian Aldiss

SCREW CHILDREN!

That's the mantra of the world.

Instead of burying them with a national debt, shoving them in shitty schools, drugging them if they don't comply, hitting them, yelling at them, indoctrinating them with religion and statism and patriotism and military worship, what if we just did what was right for them? The whole world is built on 'screw children', and if we changed that, this would be an alien planet to us.

—Stefan Molyneux

Abused children often find it hard to disentangle themselves from their dysfunctional families, whereas children grow away from good, loving parents with far less conflict. After all, isn't that the task of a good parent, to enable the child to leave home?

—Irvin D. Yalom

I believe that this neglected, wounded inner child of the past is the major source of human misery.

--John Bradshaw

The 'good' child may be frightened, and insecure, wanting only to please his parents by submitting to their will, while the 'bad' child may have a will of his own and genuine interests but ones which do not please the parents.

--Erich Fromm

I have seen infants who, at the age of only two months, had already developed real neuroses because of the way they had been handled by their mothers and fathers. The infants had absorbed their parents' anxieties like a blotter.

--Dr. Smiley Blanton

Child psychologists have demonstrated that our minds are actually constructed by these thousands of tiny interactions during the first few years of life. We aren't just what we're taught. It's what we experience during those early years—a smile here, a jarring sound there—that creates the pathways and connections of the brain. We put our kids through fifteen years of quick-cut advertising, passive television watching, and sadistic video games, and we expect to see emerge a new generation of calm, compassionate, and engaged human beings?

—Sidney Poitier

The amount of destructiveness in a child is proportionate to the amount to which the expansiveness of his life has been curtailed. Destructiveness is the outcome of the unlived life.

--Erich Fromm

Every baby born in this country gets on one of two trains—one bound for heaven or one bound for hell. And the children on the train to hell see the kids on the other train. The tragedy is that our society has built so few switching stations to help youngsters change their lives.

--Eli Newberger, M.D.

While it is widely assumed that bullies focus on socially isolated children, a recent study offers evidence that popular children get bullied, too. Researchers at the University of California and Pennsylvania State University found that students' chances of being bullied rise 25% if they move from a group with average popularity to the 95th percentile. Those with higher social status also experienced greater psychological stress when bullied, because they felt they had more to lose.

--Quentin Fottrell

Whenever reality reinforces a child's fantasied dangers, the child will have more difficulty in overcoming them...So, while parents may not regard a spanking as a physical attack or an assault on a child's body, the child may regard it as such, and experience it as a confirmation of his fears that grownups under certain circumstances can really hurt you.

--Selma H. Fraiberg

Some of the most evil human beings in the world are psychiatrists. Not all psychiatrists. Some psychiatrists are selfless, caring people who really want to help. But the sad truth is that in today's society, mental health isn't a science. It's an industry. Ritalin, Zoloft, Prozac, Lexapro, Resperidone, happy pills that are supposed to 'normalize' the behavior of our families, our colleagues, our friends—tell me that doesn't sound the least bit creepy! Mental health is subjective. To us, a little girl talking to her pretend friends instead of other children might just be harmless playing around. To a psychiatrist, it's a financial opportunity. Automatically, the kid could be swept up in a sea of labels. 'not talking to other kids? Okay, she's asocial!' or 'imaginary friends? Bingo, she has schizophrenia!' I'm not saying in any way that schizophrenia and social disorders aren't real. But the alarming number of people, especially children, who seem to have these 'illnesses' and need to be medicated or locked up... it's horrifying. The psychiatrists get their prestigious reputation and their money to burn. The drug companies get fast cash and a chance to claim that they've discovered a wonder-drug, capable of 'curing' anyone who might be a burden on society... that's what it's all about. It's not about really talking to these troubled

people and finding out what they need. It's about giving them a pill that fits a pattern, a weapon to normalize people who might make society uncomfortable. The psychiatrists get their weapon. Today's generations get cheated out of their childhoods. The mental health industry takes the world's most vulnerable people and messes with their heads, giving them controlled substances just because they don't fit the normal puzzle. And sadly, it's more or less going to get worse in this rapidly advancing century.

—Rebecca McNutt

The child psychologist's clinic: where imaginary friends go to die, where dreams go to burn, where creativity goes to drown.

—Rebecca McNutt

One of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child is to kill or torture an animal and get away with it.

—Margaret Mead

A child who fears excessive retaliation for even minor offenses will learn very early on that to lie is to protect himself....If your child intuits that you will react very punitively to his wrongdoing, he may be tempted to lie and may become, as time goes on, a habitual liar.

--Lawrence Balter

A man is born; his first years go by in obscurity amid the pleasures or hardships of childhood. He grows up; then comes the beginning of manhood; finally society's gates open to welcome him; he comes into contact with his fellows. For the first time he is scrutinized and the seeds of the vices and virtues of his maturity are thought to be observed forming in him.

This is, if I am not mistaken, a singular error.

Step back in time; look closely at the child in the very arms of his mother; see the external world reflected for the first time in the yet unclear mirror of his understanding; study the first examples which strike his eyes; listen to the first word which arouse with him the slumbering power of thought; watch the first struggles which he has to undergo; only then will you comprehend the source of the prejudices, the habits, and the passions which are to rule his life.

—Alexis de Tocqueville

The difficult child is the child who is unhappy. He is at war with himself; and in consequence, he is at war with the world.

--A. S. Neill

When a child is forced to prove himself as capable, results are often disastrous. A child needs love, acceptance, and understanding. He is devastated when confronted with rejection, doubts, and never ending testing.

—Virginia M. Axline

Tantrums are seldom about the thing they appear to be about.

—Diana Wynne Jones

The high IQ has become the American equivalent of the Legion of Honor, positive proof of a child's intellectual aristocracy...It has become more important to be a smart kid than a good kid or even a healthy kid.

—Sam Levenson

Although psychology and pedagogy have always maintained the belief that a child is a happy being without any conflicts, and have assumed that the sufferings of adults are the results of the burdens and hardships of reality, it must be asserted that just the opposite is true. What we learn about the child and the adult through psychoanalysis shows that all the sufferings of later life are for the most part repetitions of these earlier ones, and that every child in the first years of life goes through an immeasurable degree of suffering.

—Melanie Klein

There is no debating that the effects of trauma experienced in childhood may have grave consequences.

—Asa Don Brown

Is the world a dangerous place? Children certainly think so when TV news cameras expose them to scenes of mass killings of children at a school in Scotland and a day care center in Oklahoma City, not to mention disastrous plane crashes, car accidents, and gun violence. A recent list of the top ten children's fears includes gangs, drive-by shootings, drugs, death, nuclear war, guns, knives, and AIDS. And that's not counting young children's fears of thunder and lightning, monsters under the bed, or ghosts in the attic. Child psychologists take children's fears seriously and they have done a number of studies to find out their causes and effects. They discovered that it is difficult to distinguish fear from anxiety in children. As a general rule, fear is a response to a situation, like being afraid of an animal, while anxiety is defined as being worried about something that hasn't happened, such as an upcoming test.

—*National Association of
Elementary School
Principals*

Fears and anxieties vary with the age of the child. Here are some typical examples: Ages 1-6. Young children have simple fears. What scares them are immediate, personal things like being in the dark, large or loud animals, bees and bugs, and loud or scary noises. Many of them demonstrate what psychologists call separation anxiety, crying, throwing temper tantrums, and clinging to parents or caretakers. They may also be afraid of 'bad people' and accidents like falling off a playground slide. Ages 6-12. Children of these ages start to worry about threatening situations like being hit by a bully or an adult. They also worry that they will fail or do poorly in school, that a parent may die, that their family will become poor, or even that they will be kidnapped. They become anxious about being accepted by their peers, their physical appearance, school performance, and parents' expectations. Teenagers. Most teens begin to lose their childhood fears. They don't think anything will ever happen to them and may take unnecessary risks with their health and lives. Their fears and anxieties are more realistic, like gang violence, social rejection, and terrorist attacks. Teenage girls tend to show more general anxiety than boys, usually centered around social acceptance and popularity.

—*National Association of
Elementary School
Principals*

THE EFFECTS OF DIVORCE

Divorce has become a reality that affects more than two million adults and more than one million children each year. Yes—all children will be affected by divorce. Does it need to be negative? No! Absolutely Not! Divorce does have short-term and long-term negative effects on some children's adjustment. The main difficulties associated with divorce are:

1. conflict between parents
2. parent depression
3. lack of social support and
4. financial stress

In preschoolers, divorce may trigger regression, fretfulness, bewilderment, aggression and need.

In school age children, there is sadness, grieving, fear, anger, feelings of deprivation, fantasies of reconciliation, body complaints and loyalty conflicts.

In adolescents, there are many painful feelings: how will their own future marriages work out, worry over financial matters, loyalty conflicts, individualization from parents and the awareness of parents as sexual beings.

Healthy adjustment occurs when children are made to feel that they are in no way responsible for the divorce and that the divorce is final. Skills in coping and conflict

resolution need to be well-developed for a child to adjust. Eventually, they won't blame anyone, but will instead work on problem solving and staying involved in a social support system.

Children have a positive adjustment to divorce when the custodial parent has low stress and is psychologically healthy. The custodial parent needs to be firm and consistent in parenting; and the child needs to feel that his relationship with the custodial parent is positive.

Involvement of the non-custodial parent has a direct effect on the children's adjustment when the involvement directly affects the well-being of the custodial parent rather than the child.

Emotional and financial support by the non-custodial parent can reduce the strain experienced by the custodial parent and increase their parenting competence. This increased competence directly affects a child's adjustment.

Children will do well when the parents are mentally healthy and have a support system to help them cope with the difficult times. Nobody needs to do it alone. Divorce can be a growth-producing experience. Some of the divorced parent's dreams may have died, but the parent has not.

—Dr. Phil Martin R.
Textor

Young children, who for whatever reason are deprived of the continuous care and attention of a mother or a substitute-mother, are not only temporarily disturbed by such deprivation, but may in some cases suffer long-term effects which persist.

—John Bowlby

For children, parents are a yardstick for normalcy.

—Upasana Saraf

Emotional abuse is the most insidious and prevalent kind of abuse. Over a long period of time, it can make a child feel so inadequate that he wants to commit suicide.

—Nancy Peterson

WHAT GRIEVING CHILDREN NEED TO DO

Grief thoughts and feelings are continuous and ever changing, inundating bereaved children's lives like waves on the ocean. These thoughts and feelings may arrive without warning, and children feel unprepared for their enormity in a school setting. How can teachers help? By recognizing that these children often need to do the following:

1. They need to acknowledge a parent or sibling who died by using his or her name or by sharing a memory.

2. They need to use tools such as drawing, writing, role-playing, and re-enactment to safely project feelings and thoughts, about their loss.
3. They need to be allowed to go to a safe place outside the classroom when overwhelming feelings arise, without explaining why in front of classmates.
4. They need to call their surviving parent during the school day or visit the school nurse for reassurance that they and their family are okay. Such reality checks counteract children's preoccupation with their own health and the health of their loved ones.
5. They need physical ways (like memory books) to re-experience and share memories in a safe way.

—Linda Goldman

Children who grieve over the death of a parent, grandparent, brother or sister, or friend often are 'the forgotten mourners,' says Susan Smith, author of a book by that name. Smith and other researchers on childhood and adolescent bereavement say most adults mistakenly assume that kids bounce back after a short mourning period. And they incorrectly believe that kids' grief steadily diminishes until it ends for good.

But grief often submerges and re-emerges, in varying intensity, for months and years. How children and teens understand death—and how they grieve— depends on factors such as age and developmental stage; ethnic culture and beliefs; and whether the death was caused by disease, accident, or suicide.

Many children experience 'complicated grief' that involves serious and long-lasting physical and emotional reactions, says Columbia University's Grace Christ, who explains how children's developmental stages affect their understanding of death and the form their mourning takes:

3-to 5-year-olds do not understand the permanence of death; ask repeatedly when the deceased person is coming back; are frightened by adults' grieving; demand a replacement for the deceased. Complicated grief includes anxiety and regressive behaviors longer than six months after the death.

6- to 8-year-olds understand that death is universal and permanent; assume blame and guilt for the death; mourn through stories, pictures, and remembrances. Complicated grief includes school refusal, physical symptoms, suicidal thoughts, and regressive emotions and behavior.

9- to 11-year-olds demand detailed information about the death; avoid sadness and other strong emotions; increasingly express anger; feel a sense of the deceased's presence. Complicated grief includes shunning friends and increased moodiness and misbehavior three to six months after the death.

12- to 14-year-olds act callous, indifferent, and egocentric; strongly sense the deceased person's presence; ...take comfort in the deceased's clothing and possessions. Complicated grief includes refusing to attend school, persistent depression, drug or alcohol use, associating with delinquents, and precocious sexual behavior.

15- to 17-year-olds express thoughtfulness and empathy; resist excessive demands at home; feel overwhelmed by survivors' emotional dependence and grief; grieve in adultlike ways with sadness and painful memories, but grief is of shorter duration; worry about their own vulnerability and death; have private conversations with the deceased. Complicated grief includes mood swings, withdrawal from friends and group activities, poor school performance, and high-risk behaviors such as drug use.

—Susan Black

RECOGNIZING CHILDREN'S GRIEF

How will adults know when a grieving child needs extra help?

The *American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* advises parents and teachers to consider referring a child for therapeutic counseling if these grief related symptoms persist for an extended period:

1. Severe depression that results in little interest in daily activities
2. Inability to eat and sleep normally
3. Fear of being alone
4. Imitation of the deceased
5. Repeatedly wishing to join the deceased
6. Loss of interest in play and friends
7. Refusal to attend school
8. Steady drop in school achievement.

—*American Academy of
Child and
Adolescent
Psychiatry*

Children can't make their own rules and no child is happy without them. The great need of the young is for authority that protects them against the consequences of their own primitive passions and their lack of experience, that provides them with guides for everyday behavior and that builds some solid ground they can stand on for the future.

--Leontine Young

No one knows better than children how much they need the authority that protects, that sets the outer limits of behavior with known and prescribed consequences. As one little boy expressed it to his mother, 'You care what I do.'

--Leontine Young

We must respect religiously, reverently, the first indications of individuality.

--Maria Montessori

Most of what we object to as misconduct in children is a natural rebellion against the intrusion of an unimaginative adult despotism in their lives.

--Floyd Dell

The forming of the minds of children in that early stage of their existence which, in nine cases out of every ten, determines their quality, character, and usefulness, through the whole period of life, is the most sacred duty which devolves upon the sex, and if they neglect this, or perform it in an improper manner, the character of the whole of society is lowered to the same extent.

--*The Magazine of
Domestic
Economy* (1835)

One common concern of parents these days is that children grow up too fast. But sometimes it seems as if children don't get the space to grow up at all; they just become adept at mimicking the habits of adulthood....children used to gradually take on responsibilities, year by year. They crossed the road, went to the store; eventually some of them got small neighborhood jobs. Their pride was wrapped up in competence and independence, which grew as they tried and mastered activities they hadn't known how to do the previous year. But these days, middle-class children, at least, skip these milestones. They spend a lot of time in the company of adults, so they can talk and think like them, but they never build up the confidence to be truly independent and self-reliant.

--Hanna Rosin

Children are wonderfully confident in their own imaginations. Most of us lose this confidence as we grow up.

—Sir Ken Robinson

All of us have moments in our lives that test our courage. Taking children into a house with a white carpet is one of them.

—Erma Bombeck

In 1916, *Infants' and Children's Wear Review* insisted upon pink for boys and blue for girls. In 1939, *Parents* magazine claimed that pink was a good color for boys because it was a pale version of red, which was the color of Mars, the war god. Blue was good for girls because it was the color of Venus, and of the Virgin Mary. So, pink for girls is a relatively recent trend, and utterly random.

—Tim Gunn

How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers.

—St. Teresa of Calcutta

When someone says a child with autism can be hard to connect with, I smile and reply, 'You can be sure she feels the same way about you.'

—Ellen Notbohm

A child is like a butterfly in the wind. Some can fly higher than others, but each one flies the best it can. Why compare one against the other? Each one is different. Each one is special. Each one is beautiful.

—*Womenworking.com*

All children should be taught to unconditionally accept, approve, admire, appreciate, forgive, trust, and ultimately, love their own person.

—Asa Don Brown

Self-esteem is the real magic wand that can form a child's future. A child's self-esteem affects every area of her existence, from friends she chooses, to how well she does academically in school, to what kind of job she gets to even the person she chooses to marry.

--Stephanie Marston

It is ironical that in an age when we have prided ourselves on our progress in the intelligent care and teaching of children we have at the same time put them at the mercy of new and most terrible weapons of destruction.

--Pearl S. Buck

What a horror it must be for a child to discover that his skin is the wrong color.

--Sam Levenson

Many believe that ongoing stress during early childhood—from grinding poverty, neglect, parents' substance abuse and other adversity—can smolder beneath the skin, harming kids' brains and other body systems. And research suggests that can lead to some of the major causes of death and disease in adulthood, including heart attacks and diabetes.

—Lindsey Tanner

The tools of conquest do not necessarily come with bombs and explosions and fallout. There are weapons that are simply thoughts, attitudes, prejudices—to be found in the minds of men. For the record, prejudices can kill and suspicion can destroy, and a thoughtless, frightened search for a scapegoat has a fallout all its own—for the children and the children yet unborn.

—Rod Serling

If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.

—Mohandas Gandhi

If we are to reach real peace in the world we shall have to begin with children; and if they will grow up in their natural innocence, we won't have to struggle; we won't have to pass fruitless ideal resolutions, but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which consciously or unconsciously the whole world is hungering.

—Mohandas Gandhi

In reality, Little Ones, there are two winters. One made for kids; the other for adults. The one made for adults is always too cold and always too long. The one made for kids is always perfect. A kid winter is an endless and wild snow carnival where all the rides are free.

--Carew Papritz

Some kids are smarter than you, some kids have cooler clothes than you, some kids are better at sport than you. It doesn't matter. You have your thing too. Be the kid who can get along. Be the kid who is generous. Be the kid who is happy for other people. Be the kid who does the right thing. BE THE NICE KID.

—Internet Meme

Teasing is universal. Anthropologists have found the same fundamental patterns of teasing among New Zealand aborigine children and inner-city kids on the playgrounds of Philadelphia.

--Lawrence Kutner

You can't train a caterpillar to be a butterfly, and you can't train a preschooler to be an adult.

—Dr. Gordon Neufeld

A child who sings is a happy child.

—Elder Enrique
Falabella

was little I didn't care about things like how I dressed...my parents did that for me. Looking back, it's clear to see they didn't care much either.

—Ged Backland

No fathers or mothers think their own children ugly.

—Miguel de Cervantes

Consider the following statistics from the *National Eating Disorders Association's* website:

Forty-two percent of first-to-third-grade girls want to be thinner.

Eighty-one percent of 10-year-olds are afraid of being fat.

Even among clearly non-over-weight girls, over one-third report dieting.

Of American elementary school girls who read magazines, 69 percent said that the pictures influence their concept of the ideal body shape.

Forty-seven percent of these girls say the pictures make them want to lose weight.

—Connie Schultz

Childhood is that wonderful time when all you need to do to lose weight is take a bath.

—Joe Moore

I didn't put my children in the world for me. It's their life and their death. The best parents are the ones who let their children go. Children with terminal diseases like cancer mature much faster than other children. They think a lot about their life and death and how they'd like their death to be. And sometimes they're more courageous than their parents.

—Jutte van den Werff
Ten Bosch

Childhood is the kingdom where nobody dies.

—Edna St. Vincent
Millay

After losing a parent, many children are surprisingly resilient. They go on to live happy childhoods and become well-adjusted adults.

—Adam Grant

Babies have the power to make grumpy people happy because they love you no matter what. Dogs are that way, too.

—Mariel Hemingway

Children are what the mothers are.

--Walter Savage Landor

We, the children, are so full of repressed resentments against the tyrannies inflicted upon us by our parents, and so full of repressed shame at the slavery to which we subjected them, that we cannot bear a word against them. The sentimentality with which we regard the home is an exact measure of the secret grudge we actually bear against it.

--Floyd Dell

Out of some forty families I have been able to observe, I know hardly four in which the parents do not act in such a way that nothing would be more desirable for the child than to escape their influence.

--Andre Gide

Children in a family are like flowers in a bouquet: there's always one determined to face in an opposite direction from the way the arranger desires.

--Marcelene Cox

Children thrive in a variety of family forms; they develop normally with single parents, with unmarried parents, with multiple caretakers in a communal setting, and with traditional two-parent families. What children require is loving and attentive adults, not a particular family type.

--Sandra Scarr

The term 'nature-deficit disorder' has recently entered the popular vocabulary....It was coined by the author Richard Louv to explain a wide range of behavior problems in children who spend less time outdoors but now is invoked as the root cause of an even wider range of both physical and emotional ailments in people of all ages who are disconnected from nature.

--Dr. Andrew Weil

The child, in the decisive first years of his life, has the experience of his mother, as an all-enveloping, protective, nourishing power. Mother is food; she is love; she is warmth; she is earth. To be loved by her means to be alive, to be rooted, to be at home.

--Erich Fromm

Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of children.

--William Makepeace
Thackeray

A child is the most expensive thing you can get for free.

—Internet Meme

When we protect guns more than we protect children, we become an uncivilized society.

—Internet Meme

We lose eight children and teenagers to gun violence every day. If a mysterious virus suddenly started killing eight of our children every day, America would mobilize teams of doctors and public health officials. We would move heaven and earth until we found a way to protect our children. But not with gun violence.

--Elizabeth Warren

In more than half of American homes where there are both children and firearms, according to a 2000 study, the weapons are in an unlocked place, and in more than 40 percent of homes, guns without a trigger lock are in an unlocked place. Almost three-quarters of children under the age of ten who live in homes with guns say they know where the guns are. A 2005 study showed that more than 1.69 million children and youth under eighteen live in homes with weapons that are loaded and unlocked. According to a *Department of Education* study, 65% of school shootings between 1974 and 2000 were carried out with a gun from the attacker's home or the home of a relative. And the laws, it seems, are effective. One study indicated that in the twelve states where child-access prevention laws were on the books for at least one year, unintentional gun deaths fell by 23 percent.

--Gary Younge

So long as you have a society with a lot of guns—and America has more guns per capita than any other country in the world—children will be at risk of being shot. The questions are how much risk, and what, if anything, is being done to minimize it? If one thinks of various ways in which commonplace items, from car seats to medicine bottle tops, have been childproofed, it's clear that society's general desire has been to eliminate as many potential dangers from children as possible, even when the number of those who might be harmed is relatively small. If one child's death is preventable, then the proper question isn't 'Why should we do this' but rather 'Why shouldn't we?' It would be strange for that principle to apply to everything but guns.

--Gary Younge

A remarkable 75 percent of children killed with guns this year have been under the age of 12. Since the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, three years ago, an American child under 12 has died by intentional or accidental gunfire every other day, according to analysis by NBC News. And those children are far more likely to die from guns held by family members and acquaintances than strangers, according to an NBC News analysis of FBI data.

On August 18, 9-year-old Jamyla Bolden was killed by a bullet fired into her Ferguson, Missouri, home as she did her homework on her bed. ‘Usually when we hear the gunshots, she’s the first one who yells ‘Mom, they’re shooting!’ her mother told KMOV.com, a local news station. ‘I noticed Jamyla wasn’t saying anything. That’s the main thing I remember: her not moving.’

—Jennifer Mascia

Children younger than 3 have gotten their hands on guns and shot someone at least 59 times this year, a disturbing trend first reported by Christopher Ingraham in the Washington Post in October. Most often, these toddlers wound or kill themselves, but more than a dozen have shot other people, sometimes fatally. Gun violence prevention advocates say that gun storage requirements and the adoption of smart guns that only fire for their owners could reduce these deaths, but the gun lobby vehemently opposes such suggestions. In November, after the Post’s report, 20 Democrats in the U.S. Senate asked the Government Accountability Office to issue a report on the safe storage of guns in American homes.

—Jennifer Mascia

EVERY DAY ON AVERAGE (AGES 0-19)

Every day, 46 children and teens are shot in murders, assaults, suicides & suicide attempts, unintentional shootings, and police intervention.

Every day, 7 children and teens die from gun violence:

- 4 are murdered
- 2 die from suicide

Every day, 40 children and teens are shot and survive:

- 31 injured in an attack
- 1 survives a suicide attempt
- 8 shot unintentionally

—*bradycampaign.org*
(2016)

IN ONE YEAR ON AVERAGE (AGES 0-19)

17,012 American children and teens are shot in murders, assaults, suicides & suicide attempts, unintentional shootings, or by police intervention.

2,647 kids die from gun violence:

- 1,565 murdered
- 907 die from suicide
- 116 killed unintentionally
- 27 killed by legal intervention
- 32 die but intent was unknown

14,365 kids survive gun injuries:

- 11,321 injured in an attack
- 232 survive a suicide attempt
- 2,747 shot unintentionally
- 65 shot in a legal intervention

—*bradycampaign.org*
(2016)

Everything we think we know about getting older is wrong. We are being manipulated and misled by a cult-like devotion to youth and speed. It's time we shake ourselves out of the misery of aging and re-purpose and restore the wonders and integrity of the second half of our lives. It's crazy. We impose the stress-filled demands and rigors of adulthood on children and, at the same time, we impose ludicrous and unhealthy expectations of youth and beauty on older adults. We try to measure everyone with an adult yardstick. For children, that means they are made to measure up to adult standards when they should be allowed to be children. For elders, it means that they are expected to act as they did 20, 30 or 40 years ago. This results in lives that are disconnected and out-of-balance—unprepared to deal with the realities of aging.

—Dr. Bill Thomas

Grandparents can be role models about areas that may not be significant to young children directly but that can teach them about patience and courage when we are ill or handicapped by problems of aging. Our attitudes toward retirement, marriage, recreation, even our feelings about death and dying may make much more of an impression than we realize.

—Eda Le Shan

Because we are human we have a long childhood, and one of the jobs of that childhood is to sculpt our brains. We have years—about twelve of them—to draw outlines of the shape we want our sculpted brain to take. Some of the parts must be sculpted at critical times. One cannot, after all, carve out toes unless he knows where the foot will go. We need tools to do some of the fine work. The tools are our childhood experiences. And I'm convinced that one of those experiences must be children's books. And they must be experienced within the early years of our long childhood.

—E. L. Konigsburg

When I was a child, when I was an adolescent, books saved me from despair: that convinced me that culture was the highest of values.

—Simone de Beauvoir

Baby books bore me....Too stilted. Too bland. Too predictable. Silverstein's poems surprise and amuse. Sly story lines duck down unexpected alleys. Clever phrases squeal and sing. Cuddled in my lap, Alice senses enthusiasm, hears delight. Sidewalk entralls Alice because Silverstein entralls me. Baby loves a book not usually shelved with baby books.

—Jack Hamann

In premodern times, the French scholar Philippe Aries famously argued, there was no childhood in the sense that we understand it. Children were imagined as little adults, just the way that they were depicted in many paintings. Books for them were made to match. When New England children studied the alphabet in the New England Primer, for instance, they learned that they had to choose whether they would be sinners or saints, whether they wanted to live or die.

In the early 19th century, a 'Romantic vision of childhood' (as the historian Steven Mintz calls it) supplanted these earlier ideas. Middle-class Victorians re-conceived of childhood as an idyll, free from worry and fears of all kinds. They thought that it had to be so, because they imagined their children as fragile and incapable beings. To enjoy this period of life, children had to be shielded from the discomfiting realities of grown-up existence. It is no surprise that Victorian books for children skewed toward sanitized fairy tales, tame fantasies, and anachronistic histories. More than a century later, these notions continue to echo in the vast number of children's books that paint a rosy, untroubled picture of the world, as though that were all young minds were able to bear.

—Nathan Perl-Rosenthal

Children love to be alone because alone is where they know themselves, and where they dream.

—Roger Rosenblatt

There was a little eight-year-old girl in a Pennsylvania orphan asylum. She was a gangly, painfully unattractive child, with annoying mannerisms and secretive ways that set her apart from the others. She was shunned by the children and actively disliked by the teachers. The head of the institution longed only for a legitimate excuse to pack her off to a reform school, or get her out of the place some other way. One afternoon it looked as though her opportunity had arrived. The girl who was the child's very unwilling roommate reported that she was conducting a clandestine correspondence with somebody outside the grounds. 'I've seen her write these notes every day for a week now,' she reported. 'Just a little while ago she took one of them and hid it in a tree near the brick wall.'

The head of the asylum and her assistant could scarcely conceal their elation. We'll soon get to the bottom of this, they agreed. 'Show us where she left the note.'

Sure enough, they found the note in the branches of the tree. The headmistress pounced on it. Then she hung her head and passed it silently to her assistant. It read: 'To whoever finds this: I love you.'

—Meyer Levin

What is childhood without stories? And how will children fall in love with stories without bookstores? You can't get that from a computer.

--Sarah Jio

ON PARENTS

I bring home my test
proud of my B
'You could do better'
is what they say to me
I jump and run
let out a screech
They say 'act your age'
along with a speech
After my game
I sit down and rest
All they could say was
'you didn't try your best'

They expect of me
what I cannot give
And are constantly telling me
how to live
I'm only thirteen
I'm supposed to act wild
But dad says 'he wasn't
when he was a child'
Now living with them
is kind of tough
Especially when nothing
is ever good enough.

--Robert Ricken

The facts of life are that a child who has seen war cannot be compared with a child who doesn't know what war is except from television.

—Sophia Loren

Children are born true scientists. They spontaneously experiment and experience and re-experience again. They select, combine, and test, seeking to find order in their experiences—'which is the mostest? which is the leastest?' They smell, taste, bite, and touch-test for hardness, softness, springiness, roughness, smoothness, coldness, warmness: they heft, shake, punch, squeeze, push, crush, rub, and try to pull things apart.

—R. Buckminster Fuller

A word about TV: If a television is on, an infant will stare at it. This is not a sign of advanced development. TV entertains at a cost. Young children easily become dependent on the TV for stimulation and lose some of their natural drive to explore. A child with a plastic cup and spoon, a few wooden blocks, and a board book can think up fifty creative ways to use those objects; a child in front of a TV can only do one thing.

--Benjamin Spock

There are souls which fall from heaven like flowers, but ere they bloom are crushed under the foul tread of some brutal hoof.

—Jean Paul

The children of strict parents are often more effective liars, due to the need to avoid punishment through deception.

—*theChive*

Infants were sometimes born in the convent; but they were always baptized and immediately strangled!

—Maria Monk

I have the heart of a child. I keep it in a jar on my shelf.

—Robert Bloch

One hundred years ago, 16 percent of the babies born in this country died before age 5. Imagine telling our great-grandmothers, ‘Today babies don’t die.’ They’d think, How in the world did that come about? Well, it came about because of science and behavior change.

—Laura Carstensen

The eight-year-old daughter of a wealthy Park Avenue family was obsessed with fine clothes. She learned to read from the expensive fashion magazines, cut out pictures of fur coats for her scrap-book, and preferred window shopping to romping in the park. One day her mother decided the time had come to acquaint her with the facts of life and told her about the bees and flowers, et cetera, et cetera. The eight-year-old listened carefully, nodded her head, then remarked, ‘One thing you didn’t tell me, Mama. What kind of dress does a girl wear for a thing like that?’

—Bennett Cerf

When we are born, we cry, that we are come
To this great stage of fools.

—William Shakespeare

Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.

—Emilie Buchwald

At one magical instant in your early childhood, the page of a book—that string of confused, alien ciphers—shivered into meaning. Words spoke to you, gave up their secrets; at that moment, whole universes opened. You became, irrevocably, a reader.

—Alberto Manguel

The truth is, no matter how trying they become, babies two and under don’t have the ability to make moral choices, so they can’t be bad. That category only exists in the adult mind.

—Anne Cassidy

So often, children are punished for being human. Children are not allowed to have grumpy moods, bad days, disrespectful tones, or bad attitudes, yet we adults have them all the time! We think if we don't nip it in the bud, it will escalate and we will lose control. Let go of that unfounded fear and give your child permission to be human. We all have days like that. None of us are perfect, and we must stop holding our children to a higher standard of perfection than we can attain ourselves. All of the punishments you could throw at them will not stamp out their humanity, for to err is human, and we all do it sometimes.

--Rebecca Eanes

Every child should have a caring adult in their lives. And that's not always a biological parent or family member. It may be a friend or neighbor. Often times it is a teacher.

—Joe Manchin

To observe people in conflict is a necessary part of a child's education. It helps him to understand and accept his own occasional hostilities and to realize that differing opinions need not imply an absence of love.

—Milton R. Sapirstein

Child-development experts have different names for the dyadic signaling system between adult and child, which builds the basic architecture of the brain. Jack P. Shonkoff, a pediatrician and the director of *Harvard's Center on the Developing Child*, calls it the 'serve and return' style of communication; the psychologists Kathy Hirsh-Pasek and Robert Michnick Golinkoff describe a 'conversational duet.' The vocal patterns parents everywhere tend to adopt during exchanges with infants and toddlers are marked by a higher-pitched tone, simplified grammar, and engaged, exaggerated enthusiasm. Though this talk is cloying to adult observers, babies can't get enough of it. Not only that: One study shows that infants exposed to this interactive, emotionally responsive speech style at 11 months and 14 months knew twice as many words at age 2 as ones who weren't exposed to it.

Child development is relational, which is why, in one experiment, nine-month-old babies who received a few hours of Mandarin instruction from a live human could isolate specific phonetic elements in the language while another group of babies who received the exact same instruction via video could not.

—Erika Christakis

Toddlers cannot learn when we break the flow of conversations by picking up our cellphones or looking at the text that whizzes by our screens.

—Kathy Hirsh-Pasek

Oh, magic hour when a child first knows it can read printed words!

For quite a while, Francie had been spelling out letters, sounding them and then putting the sounds together to mean a word. But, one day, she looked at a page and the word ‘mouse’ had instantaneous meaning. She looked at the word, and a picture of a gray mouse scampered through her mind. She looked further and when she saw ‘horse,’ she heard him pawing the ground and saw the sun glint on his glossy coat. The word ‘running’ hit her suddenly and she breathed hard as though running herself. The barrier between the individual sound of each letter and the whole meaning of the word was removed and the printed word meant a thing at one quick glance. She read a few pages rapidly and almost became ill with excitement. She wanted to shout it out. She could read! She could read!

From that time on, the world was hers for the reading. She would never be lonely again, never miss the lack of intimate friends. Books became her friends and there was one for every mood. There was poetry for quiet companionship. There was adventure when she tired of quiet hours. There would be love stories when she came to adolescence and when she wanted to feel a closeness to someone she could read a biography. On that day when she first knew she could read, she made a vow to read one book a day as long as she lived.

—Betty Smith

Distracted adults grow irritable when their phone use is interrupted; they not only miss emotional cues but actually misread them. A tuned-out parent may be quicker to anger than an engaged one, assuming that a child is trying to be manipulative when, in reality, she just wants attention. Short, deliberate separations can of course be harmless, even healthy, for parent and child alike (especially as children get older and require more independence). But that sort of separation is different from the inattention that occurs when a parent is with a child but communicating through his or her nonengagement that the child is less valuable than an email....What’s going on today, however, is the rise of unpredictable care, governed by the beeps and enticements of smartphones. We seem to have stumbled into the worst model of parenting imaginable—always present physically, thereby blocking children’s autonomy, yet only fitfully present emotionally.

—Erika Christakis

More young children than ever (about two-thirds of 4-year-olds) are in some form of institutional care, and recent trends in early-childhood education have filled many of their classrooms with highly scripted lessons and dull, one-sided ‘teacher talk.’ In such environments, children have few opportunities for spontaneous conversation.

—Erika Christakis

There's no such thing as a kid who hates reading. There are kids who love reading, and kids who are reading the wrong books.

—James Patterson

There is no substitute for books in the life of a child.

--Mary Ellen Chase

Children are natural mimics; they act like their parents in spite of every effort to teach them good manners.

—Unknown

'why can't you see i'm a kid', said the kid.
Why try to make me like you?
Why are you hurt when I don't cuddle?
Why do you sigh when I splash through a puddle?
Why do you scream when I do what I did?
I'm a kid.'

—Shel Silverstein

Infants never learn to soothe themselves to sleep. They learn, abandoned in seclusion, that no matter the volume of their despondence, no matter the force of their tears, when they are alone and frightened, no-one will ever come to their rescue. Infants do not soothe themselves. They merely surrender. And it is caged in their cribs where the infants learn, in the face of their demons, to remain silent and submitting.

—C. Sean McGee

Because of their size, parents may be difficult to discipline properly.

—P. J. O'Rourke

Six processes at work in children who got along with their peers: First, these children were able to communicate clearly and correctly. Second, they exchanged information about themselves and their families. Third, they established common play activities. Fourth, they identified more similarities than differences among one another. Fifth, they could resolve conflicts in a more positive way. Sixth, they could share private thoughts and feelings. Herein lies clues that will help us help children develop friendships and, therefore, experience school success.

—John Gotten and
Jeffrey Parker

By the age of 6, 7, or 8, kids know the difference between fantasy and reality. This is when they begin to purposely use lies to their advantage.

Being old enough to understand that consequences follow bad behavior, elementary kids may lie to keep themselves out of trouble.

Many kids at this age also lie to make themselves seem better in their peers' eyes. Your son may claim that his uncle is Rex Grossman and that his dad has 50-yard-line season tickets for the Bears. It's not true, but for a while, he might be more popular.

If you discover a lie, sit your child down and explain that lying is simply wrong. Lay out the consequences of a lie and follow through with punishment. Enforce that lying is bad, but emphasize that your child is still a good person....For the younger set, be sure to explain the difference between lying and using tact. Focus on making small omissions in the truth to protect people's feelings, such as not mentioning Grandpa's expanding tummy mommy's bad hair day. Little ones may not instinctively understand the difference between stating the obvious or ignoring it.

—Michelle Sussman

A cousin is a little bit of childhood that can never be lost.

—Marion C. Garretty

I am 5. I am a risk taker and mess maker. I am a confident doer of exciting things. I'm not built for desk sitting. My brain craves action. I'm not as grown up as some people think. I still need to play, move and explore. Don't rush my Childhood!

—Internet Meme

SPECIAL NEEDS POEM

They say that I have 'special' needs,
And while that's partly true,
The needs that matter most to me
Are the same ones you have too.
I NEED TO BE ACCEPTED.
I need friends that make me smile.
I need a chance to learn and grow,
Feeling valued all the while.
Sure, I need some extra help
And some things I can't do,
But I hope you'll see beyond all that.
INSIDE I AM JUST LIKE YOU.

—April Vernon

Adultification is a result of a mind-set that ignores just how taxing childhood is. Being small and powerless is inherently stressful. This is true even when nothing especially bad is going on. Yet for many children, especially bad things are going on. Nearly half of American children have experienced at least one ‘adverse childhood experience,’ a category that includes abuse or neglect; losing a parent to divorce or death; having a parent who is an alcoholic or a victim of domestic violence; or having an immediate family member who is mentally ill or incarcerated. About 10 percent of children have experienced three or more of these destabilizing situations. And persistent stress, as we are coming to understand, alters the architecture of the growing brain, putting children at increased risk for a host of medical and psychological conditions over their lifetime.

—Erika Christakis

I’ve come to believe in my bones that children—especially children in poverty—are desperate for an education to help them discover a sense of meaning and purpose. Yet, we have decided to narrow our focus to academic achievement, which creates an unhealthy fixation on grades as a sole indicator of self-worth.

—Shanna Peoples

One of the worst things in the world is being the child of a President. It’s a terrible life they lead.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

Kids without friends are, to use one teacher’s words, a living heartbreak. ‘Each year I have some children who just can’t seem to make friends. They’re sad, I’m sad, and I don’t know what to do about it.’

Even young children are able to feel what researchers term ‘the loneliness of isolation.’ And as Janis Bullock, professor of child development at Montana State University in Bozeman, notes, kids without friends often develop negative attitudes toward school. For some children—especially those who are rejected by their classmates day in and day out—school can be a miserable place.

‘No one knows how much inner turmoil kids without friends feel,’ says an elementary school guidance counselor. ‘To recognize kids with these inner problems, we need to look at their outer behavior. For instance, we need to take a second look at the little girl who cowers in a corner alone while her classmates work on a group project, and we need to think about the little boy who sits on the sidelines during recess. Maybe what these kids need most is a friend.’

—Susan Black

Having friends or lacking them is just one part of a more complex psychological portrait; to be complete, the portrait needs to include an assessment of the quality of the child's friendships as well as the identity the child's friends.

Five attributes describe the quality of children's friendships: (1) content, or whether friends act in prosocial or antisocial ways when they're together; (2) constructiveness, which describes whether friends settle differences through negotiation or assertion; (3) closeness, which measures the time and types of activities children share with one another; (4) symmetry, or the degree to which children have equal or unequal power in their relationship; and (5) affect, which tells whether the friendship is supportive and secure or whether it is filled with conflicts.

—Willard Hartrup

How a child gets along with other children is 'the single best childhood predictor of adult adaptation.' Friends provide several important functions in child development. First, children who have friends have a much-needed emotional resource—a security system, you might say—that helps them be brave instead of timid. In school, having friends could give a child the courage to sign up for a classroom play or volunteer to explain a math problem in front of the room. A child's confidence, boosted by friends, can also make it easier to meet new people and handle stresses outside of the classroom, such as living in a trouble household. And kids with friends tend to laugh and smile more often, a sign that they're enjoying life and having fun.

—Willard Hartrup

FIVE ESSENTIAL CLINICAL FEATURES OF CHILDHOOD

Congenital Onset (It starts at birth)

Dwarfism (Children are invariably smaller than adults)

Emotional Instability and Immaturity (Self-explanatory)

Knowledge deficits (Many children who seem very bright know next to nothing)

Legume Anorexia (Refusal to eat vegetables)

—Jordan Smoller

If you would only stop rating a child's ability by your own; and try to find out just what ability a child has, our young folks throughout this big world would show a surprisingly willing disposition to try things which would bring your approbation. A child's brain is an astonishing thing. It has, in its construction, an astounding capacity for absorbing what is brought to it; and not only to think about, but to find ways for improving it. It is today's child who, tomorrow, will, you know, laugh at our ways of doing things.

—Ernest Vincent Wright

A cousin is a little bit of childhood that can never be lost.

—Marion C. Garretty

Every child begins the world again.

—Henry David Thoreau

DREAM CHILD

My Easter baby.
Long-desired.
A bunny cap and
Fuzzy ball
Topped your cherished head.
Bright and sweet,
You soared beyond belief.
And truly
I was blessed.
So proud that you served.
So sad when you left,
And crushed on your return.
Viewed by only me,
Your grisly, shattered corpse
Was now my dream...my child.

—Dan L. Miller

GOD'S LITTLE PRINCESS

Down the lane
The little sentry mans her post,
Staring at the flowing fields of harvest-ready grain.
A fair breeze fingers her flaxen curls,
And the morning sun highlights her
Delicate face as she turns
To gaze a good ways down the road.
Her arms are snugly sheltered deep within
Her shapeless woolen sweater as she
Hugs herself to ward off dawn's raw chill.

Her soft eyes don't yet smile.
Her sweet face grows forlorn.
From my seat at the window I gaze
With adoration as my little princess
Waits upon the bus to school.

—Dan L. Miller

FIRST CHILD

Over your crib,
Late at night,
We tuck you in,
Just one more time.
We stand above you,
Hugging, gazing, and reveling
In what we've achieved
In creating our tiny wonder.
You've added new
Meaning to our lives.
You've doubled our joy and
Forged a family from a marriage.
We hope that in your life
You find the joy we've found in you.

—Dan L. Miller

BABY BOOK

A book is brick to a baby.
A bulky, baffling, block.
Lick it, kick it,
Poke it, stroke it.
Riddles thrive inside,
Unidentified.

—Dan L. Miller

FRANCIS LOVED FROGS

Francis was fond of frogs.
In fact, Francis loved frogs.
She'd sit for hours on the bank of Sawyer's crick,
Watching, studying, smiling at the green,
Spotted skin stretched tight over two bulging eyes
And small, pointed, protruding bones.
Francis loved to eye the frogs plopping,
Slopping, clopping through the shallows.

Rising slowly from the bank and easing into the
Brook, Francis squished the silken, slimy, silt
Between her toes and then sank ankle-deep
Into the goop to await her moment.
She thrust a length before the leaping
Frog to clutch him in mid-air.

Francis loved to view the frogs with their
Bony backs and soft, bloated bellies, their
Eyes bulging as their throats swelled
With deep, mellow burps.
The legs slapped Francis' arms as she
Held her captor with both hands and
Kissed him on the nose.

But then, big, bad, Grandaddy frog stole up behind Francis,
Hunched, lunged, and slurped her up.

He didn't know—
That Francis loved frogs.

—Dan L. Miller

Children don't say, 'I had a hard day, can we talk?' They say, 'Will you come play with me?'

—Kyrsti Snyder

So often, children are punished for being human. Children are not allowed to have grumpy moods, bad days, disrespectful tones, or bad attitudes, yet we adults have them all the time! We think if we don't nip it in the bud, it will escalate and we will lose control. Let go of that unfounded fear and give your child permission to be human. We all have days like that. None of us are perfect, and we must stop holding our children to a higher standard of perfection than we can attain ourselves. All of the punishments you could throw at them will not stamp out their humanity, for to err is human, and we all do it sometimes.

—Rebecca Eanes

Children need at least one person in their life who thinks the sun rises and sets on them, who delights in their existence and loves them unconditionally.

—Pamela Leo