

# I have created new life! ... Oh shit, I'm a parent now

Off topic

How to fix it: **Weather**

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**Benkyo** #1 February 23, 2019, 7:36pm

So, this is a thread for talking about anything related to parenting and imminent parent status, semi sort of split from the "Just chat" thread. I'm thinking funny stories, worries, concerns, etc. You could even relate it to boardgaming, if you like.

I have an attention-craving 4 year old daughter, and newborn twins(!) I live in a foreign culture, speaking a foreign language, in a city with massively over-subscribed daycare, and have no relatives closer than a flight away. I have quite a lot to say about this topic.

12 Likes

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**"Oy!" "Wut?" Just chat**

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**"Oy!" "Wut?" Just chat**

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**Father's Day 2019**

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**Introduction Thread!**

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**pillbox** #2 February 22, 2019, 9:07pm

I have somehow (through massive oversight on the part of *somebody*) been sent home with a daughter; this incident occurred approximately 15 months ago and, still, I am in constant anticipation of a man in black knocking on my front door to rectify the situation.

In addition, my wife, not one to try something only once, is currently 20-ish weeks into growing a *second* tiny human. We will find out on Monday which ~~flavor~~ gender of tiny human child it is.

7 Likes

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**rootbeerbaby** #3 February 22, 2019, 9:09pm

I am a wizened old crone by comparison, as my babies are 12 and 9 (and nearly 13 and 10, lawd help me), and I've bounced a lot of friends bubbas on my knee and patted bottoms and burped infants of all types. I am always happy to help anyone in the 'oh SHIT i have a human person of smallness' stage of life because it was a lonely and frightening experience for me in many ways.

5 Likes

**fodder256** #4 February 22, 2019, 9:50pm

My wife is 30 weeks into making our first child. I've been reading the 'just chats' topic with... interest, and look forward to being able to use phrases like;

Why is it black?

How did that get there?

What?!

Why aren't you asleep?

Oh gods, why aren't I asleep?

Ect.

6 Likes

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**Iridium** #5 February 22, 2019, 10:41pm

I have an 11yo daughter going through normal (mostly) 11yo girl things. You know, getting into middle school, eyes locked on her phone as often as possible, desperately eager to play the murderer / traitor / bad guy in any board game we play, the usual.

5 Likes

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**simian** #6 February 23, 2019, 2:20am

I've got a 17 yo step-daughter, 6 yo daughter and 2-and-change yo son. All I have to say is that I'm really lucky that my wife runs a daycare because WOW is it pricey here.

I've pretty much given up hope of ever owning my own home but instead look forward to finding a reasonably priced 3-4 bedroom some place.

4 Likes

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**Benkyo** #7 February 23, 2019, 2:25am

Fortunately, both housing and daycare are relatively cheap here. Unfortunately, the houses are tiny (we have 2 bedrooms!) and this year we rolled low on the lottery to get a spot in daycare for our twins, so we have to wait a year and try again. Next year we get to add +4 to the roll, because my wife will applying as full time instead of part time, but we'll also be rolling against ~10 times as many people for about the same number of openings...

2 Likes

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**pillbox** #8 February 23, 2019, 3:10am

Benkyo:

this year we rolled low on the lottery to get a spot in daycare for our twins, so we have to wait a year and try again.

I'm so confused. So... what now?

*"Okay kids, go play behind those dumpsters while mommy and daddy go to work. Try not to get stolen while we're gone!"*

My wife and I got really lucky that last year while trying to figure out daycare for our, then, newborn, a friend who had gone to University with my wife offered to nanny for us for *practically nothing*. Unfortunately, this past December, she moved even further away (now instead of 20 minutes she lives all the way across town which, in rush hour, would take about a 90 minute commute). We all agreed that it just didn't make sense for her any more and she had a higher offer to nanny for somebody else. So now, instead of a nanny *coming to our house* every day for practically the cost of gas (more than that but not much), we had to figure out what else to do.

My wife is a public school teacher and, because we're expecting our second child in July, has decided to resign after this year and stay at home as a full-time mom (instead of a full-time mom *and* a full-time teacher). With this in mind and knowing that the best daycares in the area have wait-lists, we tried to figure something else out to get us through until May. A really close friend of ours offered (out of the blue) to watch our daughter *some* but *not all* of the week and we were able to get my in-laws to fill in for those off-days. So, we *again* got lucky in that our good friend (who stays at home with her 4 year-old and her 1.5 yo, who is just a few months older than our daughter) was generous enough to pitch in and that my father-in-law is retired so between him and my mother-in-law, they are able to keep up with our daughter two days a week. We're paying the friend almost twice what we paid our nanny for just the 3 days a week she watches our daughter; we tried to negotiate with grandma and grandpa about what "was fair" and they refused to name a price, so we pay them a reasonable rate (but I'm pretty sure they are just putting it in my daughter's 529 plan).

It's all temporary until the summer when we welcome our next child and drop down to a single paycheck.

4 Likes

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Benkyo #9 February 23, 2019, 3:23am

pillbox:

Benkyo:

this year we rolled low on the lottery to get a spot in daycare for our twins, so we have to wait a year and try again.

I'm so confused. So... what now?

*"Okay kids, go play behind those dumpsters while mommy and daddy go to work. Try not to get stolen while we're gone!"*

Well, there are non-government-accredited daycare options, and while they aren't insanely expensive, they have their own set of problems. One is that we are limited to places in walking distance - the only way to transport the twins is in a buggy or sling. The other is coordinating that with the oldest daughter who *is* in a government-accredited daycare, who is happy there, and who we don't want to put through the upheaval of going to a different place, especially when it took long enough for her to settle down at the current one (she's almost white, and has slightly wavy brown hair, so she gets a LOT of attention, and not in a way that she likes much).

So, we wait a year, and try our luck again. If we don't get a spot, my wife will go back to work part-time, our oldest will lose the right to go to her current daycare (which is contingent on her mother being on maternity leave or working full-time), and hopefully we'll get all three into a 10:00-15:00 non-government-accredited daycare.

We're really hoping we win the "lottery" next year...

Oh, and I'm annoyed about the fact we didn't get a place this year, because it *probably* means that other parents in the same boat as us applied as going back to work full-time (therefore more points than us), but have relatives around to pick up their zero-year-old babies at 15:00 (which is the latest you can leave zero-year-old babies), *so they don't need the daycare as much as us!*

Your situation, while piecemeal and no doubt stressful, I'm kind of envious of. There's just no way anyone Japanese would ever agree to look after another persons' kid, unless it was their job and they were trained to do it.

2 Likes

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**pillbox** #10 February 23, 2019, 3:26am

Benkyo:

So, we wait a year, and try our luck again.

I wish you the best of luck!

2 Likes

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**simian** #11 February 23, 2019, 5:11am

Yeeeeesh that sounds stressful.

My wife has a waiting list but it's no uncommon for people to become and try and reserve a spot even before the kid is born, usually even going so far to as to put down a deposit.

2 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #12 February 23, 2019, 11:44am



And Batman is soy-dairy-gluten-egg- nuts intolerant robin just gluten n nuts.

That all said, our day to is not typical . they are pretty awesome, and they work so hard at therapy. We do celebrate their neurodiversity Their therapy and needs are my life, I just try not to think of student loans.

Half the time, regular kids stuff, but there have been times where hubby n I forget kids under 5 can even talk. Once Batman came up to me and asked “I want hmm hmm pictures” with no idea what hmm hmm was. Not the best day

\*special needs kids can be targets for abuse, not using/limiting their names online is a protective tactic.

\*\* there ADHD is common sub diagnosis, possibly because asd kiddos have a lot of sensory needs that present as ADHD.

Any other ASD parents high 5?

5 Likes

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**COMaestro** #15 February 25, 2019, 11:19pm

Ug, “mmm mmm pictures.” And the inevitable crying/tantrum when we “refused” to load up the pictures because we obviously didn’t love him when he “clearly” stated what he wanted.

3 Likes

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**Benkyo** #16 February 26, 2019, 2:56am

Ooh, tantrums.

I feel like I’m failing in some of my parenting goals. She’s obsessed with princesses, the Disney ones and the “pretty cure” Japanese variety, will only wear pink, gets unreasonably upset when her clothes get dirty, and threw a tantrum the other day when I explained she couldn’t wear a skirt to go sledding in the snow.

Societal conditioning is just that much stronger than one parents’ influence, I guess (wife couldn’t care less and probably on balance encourages her focus on appearance).

Still, you win some, you lose some. I’m not too hung up on this particular angle, but it’s hard to judge just how deep the conditioning goes. Japanese society is so very sexist and behind the times in so many ways, and constantly getting praise from all quarters based purely on how “cute” she is can’t be healthy in the long run.

1 Like

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**Benkyo** #17 February 26, 2019, 2:59am

brian:

## HOME VIDEOS GAMES PODCASTLE

Most of the time we're all at home, everyone's assigned pretend identities with genders assigned more or less at random, as near as I can tell.

Hah! I can relate to this. Grandma has been the prince, and I've been a princess, and vice-versa, more times than I can count.

Beginning to get to the point of fixed genders though. She told me I couldn't be "mama" the other day, and sometimes refuses to go into the "boys" toilets.

2 Likes

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**Iridium** #18 February 26, 2019, 12:44pm

Benkyo:

She's obsessed with princesses, the Disney ones and the "pretty cure" Japanese variety, will only wear pink, gets unreasonably upset when her clothes get dirty, and threw a tantrum the other day when I explained she couldn't wear a skirt to go sledding in the snow.

Introduce her to **Babymetal**.

2 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #19 February 26, 2019, 5:18pm

brian:

I, too, have a pair of miniature humans living in my house who look eerily like me.

I know, it's like, "How did they get in my house?"

2 Likes

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**superjaz** #20 February 26, 2019, 5:57pm

Could be worse,

"How did you get the scizzors?!?"

Batman acting like "pff when you were getting Robin off the bookshelf I climbed on the stove then looked on top the fridge where you hid them-- not very well I not add-- now get me a squishy ball to cut up!"

2 Likes

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There's nothing like seeing your child running around with large sharp objects that you thought were well out of reach.

2 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #22 February 27, 2019, 5:12am

I am a chef, and I was a Boy Scout. I've been trying to teach my 8-year-old how to use sharps (knives, forks, augers, etc) safely, and at the same time, making sure he washes his hands EVERY TIME he uses the bathroom. It's something you get used to, both cooking and being a scout. Keep your hands clean.

I'm still having an issue when he takes a shower to clean his penis.

He's uncut, his mom and I both thought circumcision is genital mutilation (**which it is**, if you want to hash it out [let's do it over here](#))

however, (please, forgive me for this analogy, I'm so sorry) he won't peel the banana to wash his grape.

How do you get a little dude to do this? I've never had an issue when I was a kid, neither did my brother or any of my friends. (Any women reading this: boys pee in the woods together, you learn who is circumcised almost by accident).

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**Benkyo** #23 February 27, 2019, 5:39am

You know my take on this? You don't need to pull back the foreskin in the shower, it mostly takes care of itself. EDIT: Actually, I suppose after about 6(?) and until you are sexually active, some rinsing might be required. I'm no expert.

I've read quite a bit about infections and irritations and problems caused by over-zealous parental scrubbing of baby willies, and the advice seems to be pretty universal - don't do it, or if you do be very very delicate about it.

Speaking as a Brit, circumcision seems pretty crazy. I'll leave it at that.

1 Like

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**MinuteWalt** #24 February 27, 2019, 5:27am

I haven't insisted, I've just suggested. "You may want to clean that thing?"

I'm sure he understands what he needs to do. I just get a bit "parent-noid" sometimes.

And as his mom has said, which I'm sharing because it was hilarious when he was 1, **"Don't call it 'his junk', I don't make 'junk!'"**



1 Like

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**Benkyo** #25 February 27, 2019, 5:37am

I distinctly remember the first time my foreskin got pulled all the way back. It happened in the bath, I don't know how, and I found it excruciatingly uncomfortable and ran naked and wet all the downstairs to get my parents to "fix" it, probably bawling my eyes out. Of course, they assumed I had been playing with my penis, and I hadn't, and this vexed me greatly.

So, uh, I don't know at what age it becomes easy, but I do know that there's no need to pull it back before it does. I guess by 8 this is no longer a problem, but I get that it could still be very uncomfortable to wash if, for example, the shower stream is too strong.

Perhaps discomfort is the problem? Some tips on washing it without discomfort might help?

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**MinuteWalt** #26 February 27, 2019, 6:02am

If he's not irritated, physically, I won't press the issue. My man's pretty sharp for an 8-year-old.

EDIT: I shouldn't have added that qualifier, it's belittling: he's just a sharp dude, 8 or any age.

*He's also grown a hugely epic mustache and beard! **My boy.***

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**rootbeerbaby** #27 February 28, 2019, 8:01am

I am solo parenting for two and a half weeks, and single parents you are superheroes. I'm already annoyed that I'll have to make dinner AND take the bins out, as the dog isn't doing his bit to chip in.

8 Likes

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**Benkyo** #28 March 2, 2019, 1:26am

I've got both babies to myself all day today. Should be fun.

The tradeoff is that I get to boardgame all day tomorrow!

1 Like

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**fodder256** #29 March 2, 2019, 2:17am

A cot seems pretty sweet. Got to go hang out with a couple at a concert on one of their few baby free nights (thanks to their grandma). I've never seen anyone so tired party so hard.

In other news, got the cot set up in the bedroom today. And more clothing shopping needs to happen. I'm discovering I'm having a really hard time working out what clothing is an appropriate size without having seen the baby.

2 Likes

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**Benkyo** #30 March 2, 2019, 3:21am

A cot sounds pretty sweet! I can't remember the last time I/we had a bed to myself/ourselves. I do think there are benefits to co-sleeping though, otherwise we wouldn't be doing it, Japanese culture or no.

A cot does sound pretty sweet though...

1 Like

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**fodder256** #31 March 2, 2019, 3:59am

It's kinda funny. My partner is super keen on co-sleeping, but I suspect it's going to be very different to whatever you're doing (or should I say, going through).

And because I'm a good person, I'll just rub it in a bit; if you had a cot, would you have anywhere to put it?

3 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #32 March 2, 2019, 10:13am

On daddy-day sleepovers, my little one would usually sleep in my bed while I worked on my computer, and when I was done I crashed next to him. It was a little awkward (me working while he was sleeping in the same room, not awkward me sleeping next to him. I was the only person who could get him to sleep when he was an infant, carrying him around or rocking in a chair on my left shoulder. Never the right! Only the left. I think I walked over 100 miles in the first 2 years carrying him. I can't estimate how many hours in the chair, I was usually half-asleep, too).

We have a great couch now, it's awesome to sleep on (but not to sit on) and he sleeps there now when his mom has to work or is out of town, and he can't stay at her house.

It's not as functionally flexible as a cot, but it's working pretty well.

The only other real downsides are that I don't have a room for him of his own (he doesn't really care, this whole house is practically like his room, so I'll respect that and roll with him), and that our dog, Gravy, seems a little sad when he doesn't have his couch back to himself (they both are willing to

shave, though, and it's adorable when he gets up in the middle of the night, and I see my son sprawled out in all directions, arms and legs akimbo, with the dog sleeping soundly at his feet).

1 Like

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**rootbeerbaby** #33 March 2, 2019, 11:23am

I used a thing like a suspended hammock for our two bubs. Because they were both refluxy they couldn't lay flat for any length of time, and it had the added advantage of being very cosy, could pack down to take with us anywhere, and if one of them stirred I could stick a foot out of bed and gently rock the hammock once and then it kept going. It was called a Nature's Nest by a company called Amby and it was the best purchase of my life.

2 Likes

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**superjaz** #34 March 9, 2019, 5:46pm

Sooo tired, sleep sounds pretty sweet right now, Robin woke me at 2, crashed at 5, when Batman started saying "owie" **@Comaestro** took him to the ER, they are going to x-ray to rule out appendix. Meanwhile I am wrangling Robin cuz he woke the second we tried to put him too bed.

*kiddo okay, not really sure what was hurting him*

1 Like

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**Benkyo** #35 March 11, 2019, 2:08am

Apropos of nothing in particular, although I'm still distressed by my daughters' obsession over pink, dresses, princesses, and appearance, I also want to share a success story.

From a very early age, whenever she had a problem, or encountered something she couldn't do, or something she was scared of, my first response would usually be to say "what are you going to do?"

Responses would range from "punch the monster" to "papa help me", but I love how this early emphasis on problem solving is working out.

Oh, also, these days, after a tantrum is over and she's calmed down and has fully switched over into a good mood, asking her how she's going to handle the same situation next time. Surprisingly good results!

Edit: (well, the tantrum may well reoccur, but it's been eye-opening for me that after the fact she recognises that that isn't what she should have done, and agrees in the moment to try and do things differently next time.)

5 Likes

**MinuteWalt** #36 March 12, 2019, 8:10am

**@superjaz** **@COMaestro** Batman is fine, yes? **YES?** Tell me it's yes.

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**@Benkyo** "what are you going to do?" is a fantastic way to respond. It really puts agency into their hands, and gets away from the whole "adults rule my world" thing that plagued me when I was a kid, while still being able to maintain the necessary authority of the grown-up role.

2 Likes

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**COMaestro** #37 March 12, 2019, 2:41pm

Fine has so many interpretations. But yes, he's okay. Both kids have a bacterial infection of some kind so they are on antibiotics to treat it. Sunday night was no fun as Robin woke up around midnight crying, coughing, and feverish. I was up with him pretty much all night as he'd crash for a half hour or so then cough and whine for a bit before crashing again. Rinse and repeat all night. He woke up at 3 AM last night, and Jaz got up with him. The kiddos will be okay in the long run.

2 Likes

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**superjaz** #38 March 12, 2019, 6:32pm

It was kinda a perfect storm. Last week or kiddos felt with exposure of gluten ( recall of their gluten free cereal, not pretty) which wrecked their gut health. We were just thinking in the clear when this plague hit.

Tell ya want to make an ASD kiddo laugh? Tell them their kid will eat(drink) when they are hungry. Even without plague its hard.

1 Like

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**MinuteWalt** #39 March 13, 2019, 5:25am

**@COMaestro** and **@superjaz** It feels wrong for me to "like" your posts, since Batman and Robin are ill (I don't "like" that your kids are ill). I had to click on the little heart just to show some moral support, I hope they're feeling better soon. ❤️

2 Likes

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**Benkyo** #40 April 22, 2019, 8:14am

Being ill as a father of three is fucking miserable. Thank goodness I'm on the mend, but wow. I do miss the days when I could rest when I got sick

Also, sex? In the days when we could just spend time together without distractions. How many of you have had sex in the same room as your kids/babies? Since the twins arrived, I think we are managing about once a month, if that.

3 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #41 April 22, 2019, 8:24am

I don't know, not since each were actual tiny babies and we had to be really quiet (and honestly, where's the fun in that?)

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**Cokho** #42 April 22, 2019, 3:48pm

Being sick with kid is the worse ! The worst (for me anyway) was that I always became sick after my kids, so it was Kid 1, kid 2, me, my partner( who's working) . Awful, would not recommend. For sex, if the baby was asleep, it was fine for us as long as we didn't make to much noise. Not the best, but we couldn't see any other way. But she was in her bed, we never had sex with her in our bed. For us, the best way we found was scheduled sex. Which sounds awful but can be fun if you plan it right. It was something to look forward to when the baby was insuferable, just seeing a little heart on the family calendar would put a smile on my face. We would so everything like a big date night, either we would make plan for the babies to be kept at someone else room, or we would put them in another room, and as soon as they were asleep, we would have dinner, a little booze, and to the bedroom. It was a godsent time for adult in the sea of baby concern. It's absolutly not perfect, one of them could wake up, but for the time when they did not have some kind of regular sleep schedule, it was the best.

3 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #43 April 22, 2019, 11:53pm

(Warning, youngsters: these are real things that parents do to keep themselves sane and happy and in love (and possibly provide you with a younger sibling). Almost no one talks about it in front of their kids, or often even to other parents. If you feel grossed out, find another topic, or go watch a Youtuber's or Twitcher's livestream "Let's Play" on your phone or something, dammed millennials).

3 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #44 April 23, 2019, 12:12am

**@Cokho** actually, when me or my partner were sick, that was the easiest. We could "quarantine" ourselves off "to keep the kid from catching it." (Fever, not puking or major-snot sick. It actually helps you to get some sleep, even if it means the other one's going to get sick next).

On the other hand, if the kid was sick, what else, it was a good excuse to keep the kid in his room and out of ours.

(Although when the kids were *really* sick, I spent a lot of time next to their bed with a bucket and a towel and a wet face cloth, so that doesn't always work).

1 Like

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**Benkyo** #45 April 23, 2019, 12:19am

"Quarantine" may have been the case with our first, but three seems too much for one parent, especially with the twins still needing 24/7 attention. So the sick parent still has to put in the shifts, and it's no good for anyone.

On the other topic, maybe you guys are better at scheduling than us, We've resorted to under a long shirt, behind the kitchen counter... there are literally no moments when all three of them are asleep and we are both still conscious. Where's the fun in that? Well, it's better than nothing...

2 Likes

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**Cokho** #46 April 23, 2019, 7:24am

Benkyo:

On the other topic, maybe you guys are better at scheduling than us, We've resorted to under a long shirt, behind the kitchen counter... there are literally no moments when all three of them are asleep and we are both still conscious. Where's the fun in that? Well, it's better than nothing...

I'm sorry for you, it sounds like you're having a bad time. Having one baby is complicated enough, I can not imagine how hard it is with newborn twins. And, as easy it is to say, please hang in there. Try to keep your head over water, or at least to find short time to find breath. Nobody can push us past our limits like our kids can, so please be safe. If you do not have anyone to give the babies to when it becomes too hard, remember that it is better to put them behind a close door, (in a safe place) so they can cry their heart out; than to harm them in your anger (I swear, I was never more scared of myself than at three am, trying to make my first born to stop yelling and thinking *I'm going to throw her out of the window* and realizing with horror the next second that I was actually thinking it, and that it was not a joke).

I love them more than anything, but it can be sometime too much for one couple to deal with. Hang tight, I wish it gets better for you ❤️

4 Likes

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**Benkyo** #47 April 23, 2019, 7:47am

Thanks. Hey, no worries about anger issues. I'm one of the least angry people I've ever met =P

It's actually hard to stay with her when she's acting up. Babies are just babies, but yet another tantrum over dinner is hard to accept. I know she's just starved for attention though, and she's coping well enough. She enjoys daycare (aikido! philosophy! tennis! making stuff! honestly, Japanese daycare is great), we still play together, and I read to her every night.

It is true that it's tough with our nearest relative 1,000+ km away, and the culture doesn't allow for asking friends to babysit. It's just us two, 24/7. I think we're coping OK though. It helps that my job is easy and just 9 to 5. It's much tougher for my wife, but I do what I can to share the load.

5 Likes

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**Spoof** #48 April 23, 2019, 1:35pm

It must be rough without family around. My brother-in-law and his family are coming by to visit for Golden week. So we will be on "watch the niece while him and the misses sneak off to a love hotel for a few hours" duty. Our niece is at the perfect age for doing interesting things; she is yet to acquire a screen addiction. So it's really a win win situation. We get to do things with the niece and they get to have fun with each other.

3 Likes

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**Habilis** #49 April 23, 2019, 4:35pm

Any other ASD parents high 5?

We have an 8-year-old son who has very recently (January of this year) been diagnosed with ASD. He's very "high-functioning" and verbal, which I think partly explains how he slipped under the radar for so long. Right now we are dealing with the initial stages of assessment, dealing with the school, dealing with insurance, and trying to figure out how, and who, to tell about it, and when, and so on.

2 Likes

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**superjaz** #50 April 24, 2019, 6:02pm

First off I gotta say thank thank you for the quotes on "high functioning"  
Welcome to the club 😊

Once a diagnosis is in hand it hits hard. It feels like suddenly your in this race that you didn't know was going on.

A lot of services depend on your state. And the state/school relationship. A big help has been a local parent group, because a lot of things you have to specially request to get, and its hard to get that info.

For example

Me n hubbys state, it doesn't matter if you have a medical diagnosis, schools do their own screening, and you need to request it. And those results don't always match up.

Highly recommend (which I know you might have already done, but I kinda go into this mode) 1 request a hard copy of diagnosis of autism, this can be written by your child's primary because once diagnosed it's a matter of their medical record. It's literally on a RX form child's name ASD. It's super handy when filling out forms and it asks proof of diagnosis, bam! We scanned copies to attach to emails and put the originals away. I also try to take on trips in case of emergencies.

Speaking of emails I try to do as much conversing with disability services or teachers because then you have a hard copy of what said will be done, that you can reference it.

Already said, but other parents are valuable. I recommend contacting the Autism society of your state. They might know of parent groups for your area.

I got the paperwork for our oldest diagnosis 4 years ago today. Feeling a little nostalgic.

2 Likes

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**Griffster77** #52 April 25, 2019, 10:15am

2 kids here - daughter nearly 5 and son nearly 3.

The son had undiagnosed reflux for 1st 18 months of his life (he never actually vomited it up but would wake screaming and be inconsolable for hours) so I really don't know how I managed to hold down a job (starting a new job at that!) when I was getting maybe 4 hours sleep a night, often in two bites.

Red Bull sales went up, I can tell you...

4 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #53 April 25, 2019, 11:57am

My caffeine budget went up by 700% with each. Thank god I wasn't the one doing breastfeeding, I never would have made it without Rockstar and Red Bull.

Six months of non-stop crying for the first (and the baby cried constantly, too, it wasn't just me). I was f-ing clueless, we both had jobs (his mom and I, my baby STILL doesn't have a job, that freeloader, he's 22 now!)

I'm glad to say he survived our incompetence.

The second son had to be in the car when he was an infant (driving) (EDIT: I meant while / was driving! He was too short to reach the pedals), or in the stroller (rolling, me pushing), or in this one exact spot on my left shoulder (rocking or walking) when his mom wasn't there. I worked lawn and landscaping with my brother for years, I swear I never had as much cardio or used as much gas as I did when his mom was at work.

(He also doesn't have a job. He's 8 and 1/4 now, that freeloader!)

For a while, I had a screaming baby teenager and an infant at the same time. I thought I was done when the older one was about to hit 18, but life likes to kick you in the ass when you get complacent.



They both like it. I'm not doing it for the reason you don't expect it. So, yeah. **WORTH IT.** I gotta be doing *something* right for that.

2 Likes

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**simian** #54 April 25, 2019, 7:56pm

Griffster77:

so I really don't know how I managed to hold down a job (starting a new job at that!) when I was getting maybe 4 hours sleep a night, often in two bites.

When my daughter was born, I was working graveyard shifts at the time. From 1 year old till she started kindergarten I was sleeping around 3-4 hours a day except on weekends.

Midnight till Noon: At work.

1pm - 4~5pm : Sleep

5pm - 11pm : Family time

11pm - 12pm : Get ready for work and commute.

1 Like

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**MinuteWalt** #55 May 4, 2019, 6:16pm

With both of my kids: That kind of schedule got me fired, more than once, at jobs I had worked at for years (I was also taking classes).

You really do have to figure out a way to take care of yourself. I thought that because I had **RESPONSIBILITY**, that was all I had to do, and it hurt me. I didn't know how to ask for help.

When I did figure it out (and then figured it out again) I think I added another decade or two to my life.

---

**Benkyo** #56 May 9, 2019, 6:53am

Pointless gripe:

Every time I research anything about (baby) parenting, so much text is devoted to "enjoy this special bonding moment" or similar, and it drives me up the wall. We have two of them, and a third who needs even more attention! We don't have the time or energy or ability to enjoy special one-on-one bonding moments when monitoring their milk levels, we just needed to know what angle it is safe to prop them up at when they have bottles stuck in their mouths! We don't need tips on how to hold them and engage them and devote all our attention to them when bottle feeding! It ain't an option!

Yeah, I know I should preface every search with "twins", but still...

On a lighter note, a recent series of conversations with my daughter have all started with:  
“what if I punch ... ?”

the orangutan

“well, the orangutan will pull your head off”

“right off? like this?”

“yes”

Kouki (her brother)

“we’ll shut you in the downstairs closet”

“outside the house?”

“no, inside”

“oh, that’s OK, I can open that door”

“no, we’ll bar the door”

“so I can’t get out?”

“that’s right”

“in the dark?”

“yes”

“that sounds scary, I suppose I’d better not punch Kouki”

4 Likes

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[Wakeupjake](#) #57 May 9, 2019, 2:53pm

Oh man am I delighted to see that this is a topic/thread! As a parent of a very soon to be 1 year old girl it is awesome to read some of these good and not so good experiences! I’M NOT ALONE!

First up, being a parent is class but exhausting.

Two, in the vein of things that people say that don’t make sense when you have a child:

‘Make sure you sleep when they sleep’ - I mean really? If I did that there would be nothing done in the house etc. I mean it would be amazing if I could, just need to get a butler I guess.

4 Likes

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[pillbox](#) #58 May 9, 2019, 2:59pm

We’ve found with our 17-month old that “sleep when they sleep” is valuable again. I think initially at the newborn phase, it’s important to get enough sleep when you can. At one point when our daughter was a newborn, she was averaging waking up about 10 times a night (record was set at 12 in one night); so we definitely slept whenever we could (during the day, night and everything between).

Now that she’s 17-months, she’s *never not active*. It is exhausting trying to keep up with her as she runs around the house playing with *literally anything that’s not a toy*. So, yeah, on weekends when she’s down for a nap, we eschew chores in favor of naps of our own. *If* she’ll nap for longer than an hour on the weekends, we can then usually grab a quick nap before starting on trying to put *all the things* back where they belong and get started on some chores.

**superjaz** #59 May 10, 2019, 3:47am

I will add the from well meaning family " they isn't anything they can break that the other kids haven't already!"

My oldest at 2 "challenge accepted!"

And yes he found something

I miss naps.

Sleep while they sleep. But its such a handy time to

Bath

Eat

Clean-because my kids will find that crusty rice chex and hand it to me while we are skyping.

We are trying melatonin for our youngest. He doesn't fall asleep well in the summer months, and the later hes up the earlier he wakes.

I feel bad complaining about that when I have asd parent friends who are like "kiddo slept from 1 to 4 am last night! Isnt that awesome?" Non sarcastic.

Tho longer he stays up the more climbing and jumping, striping naked, n peeing. In any order.

3 Likes

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**fodder256** #60 May 12, 2019, 5:46am

I'm two days in and will record my experiences below for prosperity.

Goodness it's cute. Unlike all other babies, which just look like babies this one seems genuinely adorable. What a fluke.

Why won't you get your hands out of the way and let mum feed you?

Why won't you go to sleep?

Why won't you wake up and let mum feed you?

No really, it's much easier to feed if you don't have your hands in your mouth.

Screaming at your mom also doesn't make it easier to feed. You have to suck.

Don't fall asleep holding the baby don't fall asleep holding the baby don't fall...

Who knew there were so many hours in a day?

9 Likes

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**Cokho** #61 May 12, 2019, 4:54pm

fodder256:

Don't fall asleep holding the baby don't fall asleep holding the baby don't fall...

Yeah, that's the only way I can sleep with baby on me, I'm sleeping with the baby on me. For our first one, it was our only way of getting more than an hour of sleep. I remember holding her against me tightly enough in the middle of the bed, putting pillow in both side, my wife finally sleeping, and me looking at that damn baby who wouldn't sleep, and how mad it made- ho wow she's sleeping... And then realizing I've never loved anything so much in my life. I think having her asleep on me was part the worst and part the best of her being an infant. I actually am tearing up a little...  
*damn i think i want a third one*

4 Likes

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MinuteWalt #62 May 13, 2019, 12:24pm

Wakeupjake:

Make sure you sleep when they sleep' - I mean really? If I did that there would be nothing done in the house

F the other shit that needs to be done in the house. It's either that or slowly growing urges for infanticide. Your sanity is more important than keeping up.

fodder256:

Don't fall asleep holding the baby don't fall asleep holding the baby don't fall...

Cokho:

If the only way I can sleep is with baby on me, I'm sleeping with the baby on me

The only way my youngest could sleep is when he was on me (specifically on my left shoulder in the glider chair after walking about a mile holding him there. The right shoulder was not good enough for him. My left bicep would burn like a sonofabitch). And I learned to sleep in that uncomfortable dammed chair. He was happy, so goddamit, I was going to be happy enough at 3AM.

Besides, the top part felt great, he was very snuggly. It mitigated the lack of lumbar support, butt-cushioning, and shoulder ligament tearing that was happening on the back.

4 Likes

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superjaz #63 May 13, 2019, 3:29pm

I used to take photos of @COMaestro passed out with baby to prove he was asleep because he would claim "just resting my eyes"

4 Likes

**Benkyo** #64 May 13, 2019, 8:24pm

What's wrong with falling asleep while holding a baby?

(he asks, 3 babies in)

1 Like

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**pillbox** #65 May 13, 2019, 8:31pm

I think the concern is dropping the baby because you fell asleep.

I, personally, have drifted off to sleep while holding my daughter in the gliding chair several times, but never in a situation where she could have fallen.

That said, my wife and I are intentional in that we try to minimize how often and how routine it becomes due to fear that if it becomes *too* routine, we may get sloppy and end up dropping her.

3 Likes

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**simian** #66 May 13, 2019, 9:33pm

I've dozed off while giving my kids their bottles at night but usually only for a couple of seconds and each time with a jolt that would usually startle the child I'm trying to calm down. Good times.

3 Likes

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**fodder256** #67 May 13, 2019, 11:48pm

I feel you there. Trying to keep bubs asleep in the middle of the night so mum can sleep, every so often I'd stop pacing and try recline in the worlds least comfortable non reclinable feeding chair. Was always comfortable for about 10 minutes before starting awake and waking the baby.

**@Benkyo** the concern here is dropping the baby, or shifting in your sleep and the baby falls. Judging by the number of times we've been told not to do it, it's a bit of a problem here.

3 Likes

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**Benkyo** #68 May 13, 2019, 11:52pm

Ah, I only had full reclining positions in mind. I can't imagine falling asleep while seated, perhaps because we don't have any comfy chairs.

Falling asleep while lying down, on the other hand, we do all the time. Hozumi often fell asleep while/post breastfeeding our first.

**webs** #69 May 14, 2019, 5:27am

Cokho:

damn i think i want a third one

It's a trap!

4 Likes

---

**Benkyo** #70 May 14, 2019, 7:21am

Thanks to this thread I've had to look up "gliding chairs" and "feeding chairs". Rocking chairs, right? We have never even considered one, but I can see how they might be useful. If only we had the floor space...

---

**pillbox** #71 May 14, 2019, 7:42am

Yeah, rocking chairs with a less-pronounced angle of movement. Highly recommended if you have the space and budget

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**Griffster77** #72 May 14, 2019, 8:06am

I often used to take a nap with my baby on my chest while lying on the sofa.

Tried co-sleeping (i.e. baby in bed with you) and couldn't get on with it. The little bugger was too wriggly

---

**Griffster77** #73 May 14, 2019, 8:08am

Also - children can puncture your ego so easily

Child: I love you Mummy

Mummy: what about Daddy?

Child: I like Daddy. I also like Tilly (the cat). And Woolly.

I have been equated to the cat and a cuddly toy. Gee thanks

1 Like

**MinuteWalt** #74 May 14, 2019, 11:58am

Yeah, you get used to it. You turn to someone next to you, “hey, that’s my kid!” You point and the person next to you ignores you.

The kid(s) find mom in the crowd (and even gramps and grandma) and wave at *them*. Not me, to them.

That’s cool, though. **I’m OK with being my kids’ pet dad.** I have authority and a beard 🤪.

I can handle the rest of the minor stuff. If they get troublesome when in mixed company, I have no problem intimating to them that I have tales of changing their diapers, to keep them in check.

The look on their faces are a combination of conciliatory and rebellious, though, a smirk you can’t really get over, “you’ve won this round old man! But I kind of wanted to hear what you would have said, anyway.”

---

**pillbox** #75 May 14, 2019, 12:49pm

Griffster77:

children can puncture your ego so easily

I joke with my wife that if you ever want to feel like chopped liver, be *me* picking our daughter up from daycare (my in-laws some days, our friend on other days) instead of my wife who usually does.

There are no smiles. There are no hugs. The answer to “are you ready to go home?” is a stone faced shake of the head and a questioning look of “where’s mommy?”

2 Likes

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**Griffster77** #76 May 14, 2019, 12:44pm

To be fair, when I pick him (or indeed my daughter) up from school (pre-school in his case), he seems equally as delighted to run to me as opposed to my wife. Unless she’s there too, in which case it’s no contest!

1 Like

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**fodder256** #77 May 14, 2019, 11:50pm

Ohh... I didn’t think about this. My wife works at the preschool we’re sending bubs to. I suspect there’ll be some painful moments to come. What’s it going to be like when mom’s off sick and I have

2 Likes

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**pillbox** #78 May 15, 2019, 12:06am

Dropping my daughter off every morning was the hardest thing I had to learn to do *just right*. She's used it now, but for the first several weeks it was torture watching her cry and worry.

---

**Benkyo** #79 May 15, 2019, 12:13am

The first week of daycare is a nightmare. Your happy outgoing child comes back to you each day needy, clinging, and distraught, and you wonder if you are inflicting permanent psychological damage on them. Then it gets better.

---

**MinuteWalt** #80 May 15, 2019, 12:23am

The first time I dropped my oldest off in preschool when he was just a kid, he ran to join what was going on with the other kids, and didn't even notice I was leaving him there.

There were tears, they just weren't his.

1 Like

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**Benkyo** #81 May 15, 2019, 12:28am

It was the evenings that were disturbing for us, more than the drop-off.

I don't know what age preschool means, but I'm specifically referencing a 1 year old who was still breastfeeding.

---

**MinuteWalt** #82 May 15, 2019, 1:06am

Preschool could mean around 2-4 in the states at the time (about 20 years ago, I guess. We didn't have to do it for our younger guy, we had then-unemployed-me, and a flowing cache of stored mommy milk when he was a baby, and then the Montessori school his mom was working at when he was older).

Still feeding? And you left your child there? You monster! 😏 JK, adults have to work, and it sucks.



I had to do that. You'd think leaving with relatives rather than a stranger would be better, but I know my relatives, quite well, and it was often a toss-up.

1 Like

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**Cokho** #83 May 15, 2019, 4:37am

I'm currently in parental leave, but my job is working in a daycare (which around here is 3 month to 3 year old). I swear, swear that for the most part, the kid is crying for as long as he can see you, and then he goes right into playing, or comes get a hug.

At the same time, it feels horrible to have to pry away (because I can't think of any other word!) a child from his parent's arm, because they have to go work. And then holding then when they want to rush to the door to scream. Happy time! And of course, you have to welcome every child, but everyone is coming more or less at the same time, so sometime that means talking with a parent when three other kids are screaming.

But it is not the norm, usually, it is a pretty sweet job. The only think is after they go to school, you're dead to them! When I meet one on the street, they usually shy away behind their parents. Dammit, Wendy i changed your diapers and we played together for three year, I assure you, you know me !

5 Likes

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**simian** #84 May 15, 2019, 5:18pm

My wife has run a day care for 12+ years and I concur, parents making a big when dropping of the child just re-enforces with the kid that making a fuss works. I've also seen parents almost purposely trying to get a response out of the kid just so they can feel better?

1 Like

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**pillbox** #85 May 15, 2019, 5:44pm

That certainly sounds extremely likely. My "daycare" is provided by a friend of ours on some days and the other days, by my in-laws; as a result, my intention is to leave in whatever way makes for a happy daughter, regardless of how difficult it is *for me*. It's a shame that not everybody would naturally do that for their own children 😞

1 Like

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**RossM** #86 May 15, 2019, 6:01pm

Same at schools. I can confirm that as soon as the parents are gone, the children are fine.

2 Likes

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Toddlers are fickle. My daughter has recently completely flipped her affections completely in favour of me rather than her Mummy. Which is quite nice, if sometimes exhausting. I fully expect a further reversal in due course.

1 Like

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**Cokho** #88 May 15, 2019, 8:14pm

Well I feel like I have to say that, no matter what the parents do, sometime it will just be hard for the kid. I have in my head one mom who did everthing she could to get her toddler to stop crying when coming (and staying) at the daycare. She wanted to get a job back. But the kid would cry and scream for the entire time he was with us. Like, hours of screaming until he puked or had no voice. It was heartbreaking. And the worse was to say to the mom how it went. Of we could get him to be quiet or interested for a few linutes, it was a big win ! I'm sure we could have gone somewhere, but one time it was the dad who came to pick him up. And he was so upset to see his son like this that he decided that his wife will stay home (well maybe it was mutual I don't know)

2 Likes

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**Griffster77** #89 May 15, 2019, 9:19pm

Our son screamed like anything when being dropped off. It was horrible.

We changed the narrative - everytime we went, we said 'Ill go to preschool then, you go back home'. Amazingly changed his attitude overnight

3 Likes

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**Benkyo** #90 May 15, 2019, 10:27pm

Griffster77:

We changed the narrative - everytime we went, we said 'Ill go to preschool then, you go back home'. Amazingly changed his attitude overnight

I learnt early on never to bluff about anything with our oldest - she'd call us on it a lot of the time. Every threat I use is proportional and guaranteed to be carried out if it's clear she understands and continues doing or not doing whatever caused me to make the threat.

Reading that back, I sound a bit pompous. It's actually really hard. Trying to come up with something that she'll care about, that I can carry out, and that is reasonable and proportional, when she absolutely has to do the thing and doesn't want to... it's not easy. Especially when all the advice says carrot and stick approaches are bad, and that you should teach intrinsic motivation instead of extrinsic, but you really need to get the thing done...

**Benkyo** #91 May 17, 2019, 5:00am

(Daughter's half is translated from the Japanese, but odd words in quotes and my half is in English)

"After I go to daycare, after I take a bath, after I wake up..."

"You mean tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow'. After I go to daycare, after I take a bath, after I wake up... it's a 'holiday' and not daycare?"

"That's right"

"Let's buy a snack and buy a pizza and eat the pizza and play a game"

"OK"

"Yay. I told mama that we'd buy a snack and buy a pizza and eat the pizza but I didn't tell her about the game, so you have to tell mama about the game, OK?"

"OK"

"Good"

"Now put your clothes on"

On the one hand, she sets her sights so low! On the other hand, she's actively looking forward to spending 20 minutes playing a board game, days in advance!

7 Likes

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**Benkyo** #92 June 5, 2019, 3:57am

I overheard the following recently, which made me happy. This is about as much English I've ever heard her come up with at one time:

"Can I eat papa?"

"No"

"Why not"

"Because papa is not food. Papa is human. You can't eat people. You can eat... vegetables."

At what age would you say your kid(s) became fluent? How complex were the conversations you had at around 4.5 years old?

I'm concerned because of the bilingual thing, and because of her slow and grudging uptake of English, but I don't really have any frame of reference. I can't remember how fluent kids are *in English* in English-speaking countries at what ages.

3 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #93 June 5, 2019, 3:48am

My oldest could speak somewhat passable Spanish in grade school around 7 (he just turned 22). My youngest is 8 1/2, and they both speak fluent Minecraft. 🤖

## HOME VIDEOS, SAME BOBOSILE

Speaking for myself, I suck at most languages, not for the lack of trying. I could barely handle Spanish, French, German, or Italian, even until I was the age of 46 (which was about two weeks ago). Machine languages were a lot easier. Don't even get me started on my incompetence with Japanese or Vietnamese (which my kids are way better at than I am).

Kids have their talents and abilities that are totally different from each other's, as well as your own. I don't think there's a "finish-line" for some skills. My little guy just switched schools, and went from being the math-dude, to being a language-dude, in just a few months with the change in stimulation from Montessori to public education.

It didn't hurt that he made a new best-friend, 2 years older than him, but with developmental issues that puts him awkwardly in the same range as my son. In some ways, this kid's smarter and stronger, but in others, my son outclasses him, hard. In a lot of ways, they balance each other.

They fight constantly, and annoy the heck out of my household, but are inseparable. Kind of like brothers.

I think the most important thing is the relationships kids make, with their family, friends, and teachers. Developmental guidelines are for councilors (often underappreciated) and school bureaucrats (often overvalued).

The most important opinion about your kids are yours. Parents trump pretty much everyone else in the world.

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**Benkyo** #94 June 5, 2019, 3:58am

Edited for clarity, I'm asking about English, not second/third/fourth/nth languages.

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**MinuteWalt** #95 June 5, 2019, 5:05am

She speaks Japanese? And some English? And you both can understand each other? Dad is good.

Dad did good job, mom did good job.

Benkyo:

...I'm asking about English, not second/third/fourth/nth languages.

Japanese and English are two languages, so that's a second language either way. I hate to tell you if you haven't already figured that out 😊

Also, my family mostly stinks at all of those languages, if I didn't make that clear before. We really suck equally at more than one language.

You guys are doing fine. Relax. I barely speak English coherently, but I somehow manage to feed myself and the kids.

You have my friend, and I don't like seeing you stress. It causes me nearly-physical discomfort. I type things like this in hope that it can help you relax, to let you know that all of us have been in scary situations with the development of our kids, but we've all come out OK.

We're all parents here, and we've been through the wringer at some time or another, and you're doing *fine*.

---

EDIT: Anyway, **cadence** and **ordinal progression** of noun/verb, we have ~~crappy~~ loose structure of adverbs and pronouns, as long as you put the modifier in front of the word it modifies.

English has very few gendered nouns for inanimate objects or generic proper nouns. I actually don't think you have to worry about that, I don't know why I brought it up.

You can put some words together like Legos (thank you, Germany, and also in the 80s English speakers stopped giving a shit).

The letters R and L are a huge pain in the butt, but a speech therapist can be a simple and easy solution (I used to stutter when I was a teen, badly, like, *really* bad, but my therapist cleared it up, mostly through having me practice things like "R" and "L". I don't know *why* this worked for stuttering, but it did, and it was free).

**Singing.** You don't ever want to hear me sing, I'm awful, but it was fun, and helped me with my speech issues.

1 Like

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**brian** #96 June 7, 2019, 1:39am

Languages? Oh, hell. In less than a week, I'll be packing up the family for a trip to Bavaria, where I'll be the only member of our crew *wer spricht Deutsch. Und nur ein bißchen. Ich bin...* what's German for neck-deep in it? (It's gonna be fun. *Viel Spaß.*)

The 2-year-old can mimic the sounds I make, as best a toddler can. It's hilarious but unintelligible if you're not his parent. The just-post-Kindergartner can, on a good day, remember *Guten Tag*, but struggles with *Grüß Gott*, which is fine, I guess. *Danke* about half the time. And can, at any given moment, damn near count from *eins bis zehn*. (Should I have capitalized those? *I habe Deutsch seid zweiundzwanzig Jahre nicht studiert*, and I'm actively not looking this stuff up.) Kid can also remember *Milch* and *Kuchen* pretty well. Guess we're ahead of the curve?

Wait, where were we?

Benkyo:

At what age would you say your kid(s) became fluent? How complex were the conversations you had at around 4.5 years old?

Oh, right. Total spectrum there. Kids are all over the place at that age, and they really don't think like adults. At all. It's like the wiring's different, and logical thinking doesn't apply. I've seen an immense change in my kiddo through kindergarten, from 5 to almost-6. Still, there are misfires that I can't always tell their source, if it's language, idea complexity, or something else.

I can't find the reference now, but there's a well-known child developmental psychologist (or something like that?) who's basically likened little kids' brains to adults on psychedelic drugs, where

[HOME](#) [VIDEOS](#) [GAMES](#) [PODCASTS](#)  
they've never dreamed by all of us and can't be like we can. (Pretty sure I read it in Michael Pollan's *How to Change Your Mind*.) Been a long time since I've been in that state, but once I started imagining my kids on magic mushrooms 24/7, a lot more of their behavior started making sense.

3 Likes

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**webs** #97 June 7, 2019, 8:21am

As far as I know (and also in my experience), kids whose development is 'slow' in one aspect are likely to be fast learners in other areas. It's like their resources are spent very differently, depending on personal preference/interests and other factors.

My five year-old, for example, learnt to walk as late as 17months old, but at that point she already spoke intelligibly. Our little one who just turned one will start to walk pretty soon, but her linguistic development is way behind her sister at that age.

Edit: To add to [@Benkyo](#)'s concern: similarly to the above, learning two languages at once will generally mean that both are learned at a slower rate than normal.

4 Likes

---

**superjaz** #98 June 9, 2019, 10:45pm

I remember going over that in the plethora of PSY classes I took. That first languages learned at the same time are slower, don't stress.

Tho in my group we also have a saying if concerned have it checked out. Often screening appointments (based in US I don't know about other countries) are scheduled pretty far out, (I was quoted 18 months for one before) so by the time the appointment gets near, if its no longer a concern, cancel it, no harm.

In the US its part of the right to free and appropriate education is the early intervention program, where they will do screening if concerns.

I only mention that because at those they do ask if there are more then one languages spoken in the home because it could be a cause of late language. As are vision or hearing issues, or having a older sibling with language issues (like they learned it from them).

3 Likes

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**webs** #99 June 19, 2019, 4:15pm

I really love my two girls, but coming home after work on a hot day into a cool and empty flat (cause they are at the public swimming pool with their mom/my partner), being able to do some chores uninterrupted and just sit down and read through this forum feels sooo good.

5 Likes

**simian** #100 June 20, 2019, 6:38pm

My step-daughter graduated from high school yesterday (technically they call it a 'Leaving' ceremony) and I'm a bit melancholy today. When my wife and I first started dating, my step-daughter was just starting kindergarten so I've been with her the entirety of her grade school years. Now with my daughter finishing up 1st grade I'm getting very "CHERISH THESE PRECIOUS MOMENTS" feelings.

2 Likes

---

**MikeimusPrime** #101 June 20, 2019, 6:50pm

I have a 16 y/o stepdaughter who just finished her sophomore year and will be getting her license shortly. I've been with her mom for 12 years, so while my step-daughter was still in pre-school. And I have a 19 month daughter now, so, yeah, right there with you on those "cherish these moments" feelings.

1 Like

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**MikeimusPrime** #102 June 20, 2019, 7:00pm

webs:

As far as I know (and also in my experience), kids whose development is 'slow' in one aspect are likely to be fast learners in other areas. It's like their resources are spent very differently, depending on personal preference/interests and other factors.

My five year-old, for example, learnt to walk as late as 17months old, but at that point she already spoke intelligibly. Our little one who just turned one will start to walk pretty soon, but her linguistic development is way behind her sister at that age.

This has been my experience too. My 19 month-old daughter didn't really take her first steps until maybe three months ago (and even now only walks half the time), but she talks non-stop and picks up new words (and their proper context) after hearing them only a few times.

She's also been swearing since she was like, a year old. Because I am a terrible (or amazing? I say amazing. Because it's adorable) dad and often forget to censor myself around her. Haha.

My nephew, who is only two month's younger, has been walking since he was probably 10 months old, but his vocabulary is nowhere near my daughters and is generally much less talkative.

They're both intelligent and curious, though. When my nephew sees something interesting, he walks up to it and checks it out. Whereas my daughter points it out and asks questions about it and talks about it.

2 Likes

**MinuteWalt** #103 June 24, 2019, 10:13am

My younger son keeps accidentally calling me “mommy.”

I’m a big hairy guy! There’s fur all over my face, I’m much taller and skinnier than his mom.

I don’t know if I should feel emasculated, or privileged that he holds me in the same regard as his mom (I’m going for the second one just because it makes me feel better).

1 Like

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**Griffster77** #104 June 24, 2019, 12:51pm

I’ve given up caring what appellation my children give me. As long as they’re asking nicely, they can call me what they like! 🤞

1 Like

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**MinuteWalt** #105 June 24, 2019, 1:25pm

Eh, my mom keeps calling me “Fred” (my brother), “Marty” (her boyfriend), “Ben” (my brother-in-law), and “Gravy” (our dear departed dog), rarely “Justin” right out of the gate.

Maybe it’s genetic? I’ve become acclimated. Sometimes my son calls me “grandma” or “Noni,” too.

I suppose I’m with you [@Griffster77](#) , I roll with it. He’s a good kid, I’ll put up with whatever he calls me.

---

**Griffster77** #106 June 24, 2019, 1:32pm

Yeah my mum’s side of the family is great for calling people every name under the sun before the one they are actually supposed to use!

1 Like

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**RossM** #107 June 24, 2019, 8:25pm

My dads generic name for all people is ‘Fred’.

As for being called mum, as a teacher it happens literally every day.

2 Likes

---



RossM:

As for being called mum, as a teacher it happens literally every day.

I can hear the mocking for the poor kids immediately.

1 Like

---

**RossM** #109 June 24, 2019, 9:24pm

Nah, they're all good, basically it happens to everyone, and you can just downplay it.

We've all called someone mum by mistake once.

Surely?

2 Likes

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**MikeimusPrime** #110 June 24, 2019, 9:47pm

I've been "mama" and "sissy." And for a stretch, my youngest called every picture she saw of a bearded white dude "dada."

In her defense, us bearded white dudes all look the same.

1 Like

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**Benkyo** #111 June 24, 2019, 10:21pm

Our eldest went through a phase of "pama" and "mapa", changing her mind halfway through the word.

1 Like

---

**superjaz** #112 June 25, 2019, 3:29am

(Not to play the special needs parent card, but honestly it's all I got)

Ditto on whatever's fine, My oldest didn't have a word for me until almost 6. Now at 7 he has a bunch, but imagine guessing what "pu ma chew ah" while praising it for being such a long syllabled chain? Also it was "put my shoes on."

My youngest (very few word approximations) at 5 about a month ago (while we were working on it) I jokingly tapped him and said "my Robin"\* and then me "My mommy"(old joke from Tenchi Muyo)

He called me "a BOMB" and I said "I said I said I said", and ever since he has been calling me that and been super clingy (not complaining)

But you know Harry Potter when Ron sits between Ginny and Harry? Me 'n [@COMaestro](#)  
That a lot.

\*codename

2 Likes

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[simian](#) #113 June 25, 2019, 8:31pm

My son (2 1/2) has recently started to dramatically yell "I NEED " when he wants something while throwing his arms out and head back.

Him: "Corn?"

Me: "No you can't have corn right now."

Him: "I NEED COOOOOORN!"

2 Likes

---

[pillbox](#) #114 June 25, 2019, 9:26pm

Perhaps he's just struggling to remember a song that came out 23 years before he was born (NSFW):

2 Likes

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[MinuteWalt](#) #115 June 27, 2019, 11:36am

1. [@pillbox](#) Step into 2019! Korn wasn't even cool back then 😊 (If there's anyone here who liked Korn, I swear I'm just teasing, I'm not making fun of you.)
2. [@simian](#) I had 2 children, my own and a neighbor's, weeping with heartfelt indignation yesterday afternoon because they couldn't get their choice of Popsicle while they were swimming in the pool. Not that they weren't getting a popsicle, *just that they couldn't choose the brand*. The neighbor kid actually refused the popsicle (my son got over it pretty quickly, once he held it, he was all like, "OK, I have a popsicle. It wasn't the one I wanted, but it is the one I deserve. Imma gonna eat it." Also, granted, the neighbor kid is "special needs" on the autism spectrum, and we saved his popsicle (and he knows it!) so he can have an extra one when they go swimming today.)

2 Likes

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[Benkyo](#) #116 July 9, 2019, 10:36am

I have recently figured out something important about parenting, at least as far as I am concerned anyway.

No matter how sleep-deprived, social-interaction-deprived, and just generally time-deprived I am, I need to find some time somehow for projects.

Right now this means lunch breaks at work and half-an-hour around 5 am if I'm lucky and everyone is asleep, and I'm putting together a really over-produced Vassal module for Pax Pamir 2. Most of it is tedious programming, but I find it so satisfying to finally be making something of value again.

I feel more awake, more engaged, and just generally better. I have something for my mind to tick over during the daily routine, which is so much better for me than phone games.

4 Likes

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**Habilis** #117 July 9, 2019, 4:42pm

As a general rule I think having a project that is not kid-related is a great idea. For me, lately, it has been board game design and mini-painting. However, you definitely want to make sure that the project does not become another source of stress in your life.

Here's an example, and I'll give you some setup: I've been playing music in bands for over 30 years; mostly for fun except for about 10 years in the '90's when my friends and I tried to "make it" in the indie/punk scene that was exploding at the time. Anyway, since I've moved to the west coast (about 15 years ago) I have been in bands off and on, and always fully aware that it was for fun, a part-time thing, etc. So, a few years ago an old friend of mine who also moved out here long ago and I started up a band. He and I were in our very first band together, and so I thought it would be great. To make a long story slightly shorter, we have really grown apart musically and rather than being a fun, cathartic release thing, it became just another chore that I was too afraid to cut myself out of because I didn't want to hurt my friend's feelings. Eventually the project just kind of withered on the vine from lack of enthusiasm, but I would have to say I did not handle the situation very well. I guess the takeaway is to make sure that what you are doing is something that you can do without adding stress, or is something you can *stop* doing fairly easily if necessary.

2 Likes

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**brian** #118 July 9, 2019, 5:29pm

I wholeheartedly endorse the make-stuff hobby as a means to surviving kids. Especially if the stakes are low. Designing a board game just to see how the pieces might fit together, and then holding that object in your hands... it's fantastic. Dunno 'bout you all, but creating tangible things - a game, a new set of bookshelves, the wild vegetable/weed jungle I call a garden - helps keep the dark thoughts at bay.

That and exercise, but saying "sure, but think of how much fatter I'd be if I *didn't* run!" is less impressive than not having books piled on every flat surface. Besides, those surfaces *need* to be covered in toys and drawings, I'm told.

## HOME VIDEOS GAMES PODCASTS

The ability to stop at any point is helpful, and it is a project or two that you can effectively work on in ten-minute increments. With little ones around all the time until school starts up again, I can't devote unbroken hour-plus chunks to hobbies. No time to set up and put away the woodworking tools. But a few minutes in Photoshop to punch up a card design? I can do that in the brief window before a new toy argument begins.

3 Likes

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**simian** #119 July 9, 2019, 10:10pm

Children have definitely effectively killed my gamer status (I'm expecting someone to come for my membership badge and sash any day now) since either content or time requirements make it impossible. Right now I'm trying to find time to go swim laps at a local pool since it seems like a more full body work out plus there's that hint of danger that I could cramp up and down.

Compared to other parents it seems like my situation is better than most (kids in bed by 7:30 - 8:00, awake 6:45 - 7:10) which in theory should give me plenty of time to pursue other interests but once I factor in household tasks (cleaning, dog walking, making lunches, etc) and non-obligatory time spent with my wife there's not much room.

4 Likes

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**COMaestro** #120 July 10, 2019, 3:43am

We can sympathize with this. Our kids are typically in bed by 8 (and sadly often up around 5 - 5:30), but then there's almost always cups to wash, clothes to fold or hang up, trash to deal with, getting cleaned up ourselves, etc. That the next couple of hours just fly by and it's suddenly after 10. We will often just watch a show or something before going to bed.

We do fit in the occasional game (and have played a lot these past few days for my birthday), but I would like to play more, or paint some miniatures, or read books like I used to. I find I am often just too tired to do more than stare at the screen for a while.

6 Likes

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**pillbox** #121 July 11, 2019, 3:43am

My wife and I welcomed our second into the world this past Tuesday. Everybody is doing great.

... And now I wonder when I will once again be able to sleep through the night.



What were we thinking? (But it's totally worth it)

Edit: some numbers!

Ivy was born on the morning of July 9th. She was 8 lbs 7 oz and 21" long.

Ivy's older sister Skye is 19 months and has mixed feelings about the whole thing, but that should work itself out once we're all home together starting tomorrow

12 Likes

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**COMaestro** #122 July 11, 2019, 6:15am

Congrats. I will always remember Ivy's birthday, as it is the same as mine 😊

2 Likes

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**fodder256** #123 July 11, 2019, 10:32am

Congrats [@pillbox](#)

I've been sick for the first time with a child. Just a cold, he said. I'll be over it in a few days, same as normal he said. Anyway, two weeks and I think I'm finally kicking the last of it. Is this normal? Does it

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talk. Very often I see a bug on the way to get over illnesses now? I assume it's just the lack of good sleep...



3 Likes

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**Benkyo** #124 July 11, 2019, 11:40am

Yeah, that sounds normal.

1 Like

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**Scribbs** #125 July 11, 2019, 11:50am

Just wait until they start at nursery. It sometimes feels like a game of Pandemic managing all the diseases they collect.

3 Likes

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**fodder256** #126 July 12, 2019, 12:22am

Yaaay...

On the upside, he'll be going to the nursery my wife works at. So hopefully she's already brought home all those diseases. But ohh boy was it a rough six months when she started there.

1 Like

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**superjaz** #127 July 12, 2019, 12:58am

Yup. The thing that comes to mind is finals am in school, you cram, you get through it on an adrenaline rush, then crash and a cold.

Instead of finals, it's your kid sick, and your doing the million things that arise. Oh and now your kid just sneezed in your face, vomited all over you or worse. Then you feel it coming on, the plague!

I felt the exact moment my kiddo poked me in the eye and have me pink eye. Once I lost 10 pounds to a bar stomach bug all of us had, and somehow I was all doing everything.

In hubbys defense, some stomach bugs make him almost dead to the world.

It gets worse when school starts.

1 Like

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**brian** #128 July 12, 2019, 3:21am

We sent the first kid off to kindergarten at the same time we started the second in daycare. I've never had more or more frequent illnesses in my life.

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**Cokho** #129 July 18, 2019, 7:34am

I'm having the niece over for a few days. She's the same age as my oldest (2 1/2 yo) and I'm so happy. They play together a whole bunch and it's good to create family ties early on. And it gives my brother a few days to breathe also (just had a newborn).

AND this week end I'm also babysitting a friend's 1 yo. Bringing the total of toddlers to 4 in my house. It's going to be a fun week end.

Honestly, I'm actually happy. Being at home can be a bit same-y, having new kids around will bring some more life! And my kids are so happy, it is so cute. z

What scares me is when the week end is over, I'm going to have my nephew over, who's 8 yo, with a bit of (freshly diagnosed, my sister is so happy) ADHD and something like "Opposition disorder".

When he's by himself it's fine, so I hope everything will be alright.

2 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #130 July 18, 2019, 9:35am

Having another peer for your kid can be like a little vacation, they occupy each others time playing and you get to chill out for a bit, you just have to worry about meals, and cleaning up later.

Unless it's not. My little guys' BFF is over 2 years older and in the autism spectrum, so it actually works out on each other's cognitive level, somehow. His buddy is also in the ADHD spectrum with a bit of "oppositional defiant disorder" (what we used to call in the old days "just being a pain in the ass on purpose.") They usually get along famously, but sometimes they fight like cats, even sometimes getting physical, and when this happens, I want to separate them or tell them we need to each go back home, they cry "Nooooo!" like they can't live without the other one.

I kind of suspect this isn't due to a diagnosable condition, though, unrelated to my son's issues or his friend's issues, unless the diagnosis is "they are boys."

1 Like

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**COMaestro** #131 July 18, 2019, 4:41pm

MinuteWalt:

"oppositional defiant disorder" (what we used to call in the old days "just being a pain in the ass on purpose.")

This is a thing? I think both my kids must have it, in addition to the ASD and ADHD.

2 Likes

**Cokho** #132 July 18, 2019, 4:49pm

MinuteWalt:

“oppositional defiant disorder”

It is, I think that is what my nephew was diagnosed with in conjunction to ADHD. Mostly a behavioral thing though, “something to work on before he becomes a teenager” is what I think the doctor said.

1 Like

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**MinuteWalt** #133 July 18, 2019, 4:49pm

Everyone is somewhere on some kind of “spectrum.”

I know / was intentionally just being a pain-in-the-ass when I was a kid (actually, that never really stopped).

But, yeah, it can be a diagnosable condition, and treatable.

1 Like

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**webs** #134 July 20, 2019, 7:54pm

We met our neighbors at the local pool this afternoon, and our daughter is always happy when she gets to play with the older girls (8 and 9 to our 5 yo). While we were driving home and gave one of them a ride, they had the great idea that she could also sleep over. And her older sister, not wanting to be left out, insisted she also come over.

So I'm now checking my daughter's room from time to time to make sure they haven't set anything on fire, and maybe they'll even sleep before midnight?

But I agree with [@Cokho](#) that despite the extra work it almost always feels rewarding to have other kids over, and sometimes it even works out like [@MinuteWalt](#) says. 😊

I'll just have to be on my toes tomorrow morning lest they'll sneak into the living room to watch Netflix again (they don't have a TV at home so I guess that's a strong incentive to set an alarm to extra early when they are here.

4 Likes

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**Benkyo** #135 October 15, 2019, 12:38am

I hit peak tired parent yesterday.

We were in the pram shop, and I was asking the staff why they thought the thread on our axle might have become unusable, while my hands were working on automatic.



I intended to remove the bottle cap, check the nipple ring was secure, and give the bottle to K.

What I actually did was remove the bottle cap, unscrew the nipple ring, pour the milk all over K's face, and shout "whoah!" loud enough to shock everyone in the shop.

Fun times. Anyone else have a peak tired parent moment to share?

8 Likes

---

**Griffster77** #136 October 15, 2019, 8:57am

I once took the baby's change bag to work instead of my own rucksack. I'm not sure how much use nappies, wipes and spare clothes are in the office, nor how much use my laptop was to my wife!

8 Likes

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**Habilis** #137 October 15, 2019, 12:48pm

I came within about 1/4" of brushing my teeth with Desitin. On the other hand, I never put toothpaste on my kid's ass. So that's a win, I guess.

6 Likes

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**Wakeupjake** #138 October 15, 2019, 1:11pm

Yeah I had something similar. A few months ago I was in a flap, sick crying child, trying to get a bottle made and I shook the bottle with no top on it all over the kitchen - just one of those moments where you just have to laugh or you would actually cry. And last night I nearly turned on the blender without a lid, so basically I shouldn't be allowed in the kitchen until she's gone to uni.

1 Like

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**superjaz** #139 October 15, 2019, 4:47pm

Yes. Monday. I started writing it out but realized it was a novel.

Long story short, monthly therapy meeting 3 hours of going over stressful stuff, shopping, and pile of paperwork, making dinner I was done.

Ends with kiddo naked jumping on parents bed, my elbow gets slammed into towel bar while trying to stop, spot on elbow is like a balloon filled with blood.

2 Likes

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**Benkyo** #140 October 16, 2019, 7:10am

[HOME](#) [VIDEOS](#) [GAMES](#) [PODCASTS](#)  
I finally worked out how to hold the (well, shaking bottles with loosely/mis-applied nipples) many times between us. It's hard to remain calm when you have two screaming babies. I think (thought) we were over that by now though - we no longer see the screaming as a need to rush - but apparently there's still room for error when multi-tasking, even if one of the tasks is as simple as talking.

3 Likes

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[MinuteWalt](#) #141 October 17, 2019, 12:17pm

Benkyo:

...even if one of the tasks is as simple as talking.

**Nailed. It.**

Can I feed infant twins in each arm? Apparently, I can (well, other people's twins, thank god I never had twins).

Can I have a discussion like a grown-up in the middle of trying to figure out how to efficiently feed our own infant? Oh, hells no, that took a lot more work.

Fixing that is key, and really hard to do, more than most people expect.

1 Like

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[superjaz](#) #142 October 21, 2019, 4:19am

That makes me think of our oldest. He was a super slow eater (drinker) until 4 to 6 months. Whoever got up to give the night feeding was going to be up for at least an hour. His tongue tie was corrected at 1 month but by then he was used to it and had to use super slow bottles.

To give an idea [@COMaestro](#) watched the entirety of Married With Children, and some of Mash in that time, and he was usually only the weekends.

Our friends are having their 3rd any min now. We lived vicariously through their gender reveal because we both have 2 boys, you always wonder what the 3rd would have been. A boy in this case.

2 Likes

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[Benkyo](#) #143 October 21, 2019, 4:32am

With two of them, most of the time there just isn't any option to devote time or attention to feeding them - from a very early age each was propped up slightly on a cushion with the bottle resting on a towel on their chest. Same thing at night, but with more of it ending up on the mattress. A little easier now they can hold the bottles, but the principle is the same - stick the bottle in the mouth and try to go back to sleep. Wake up and re-insert if you hear crying!

Sounds crazy but I think I actually go to sleep with our first, because she would never go back to sleep unless carried around the house. Most of the time the twins will sleep with a bottle to suck on, or when sufficiently tired. In the morning they even sometimes wake up quietly and roam around the bedroom while H is still asleep (and I'm downstairs, getting my ~30 minutes to myself for the day).

2 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #144 November 6, 2019, 4:40am

Finding a stable, comfy, secure place to doze off while feeding you infant without the danger of rolling over or loosing your grip...GOLD.

TV or cordless headphones on or whatever, you're the adult, you need to rest in order to keep the kid alive! Sometimes you need to find a spot and say "oh, f-this, Imma gonna take a nap now. I don't care if you leave shit and piss or vomit over me, I can always do more laundry. This is a safe spot for the both of us, though, and I have your bottle right here (or, for some moms, "I have your boob right here." (I know, not all moms can, and that's fine. I do retain a bit of jealousy because my body couldn't feed my kids when they were babies)).

"Just eat and don't cry for a few minutes, and let me sleep for half of half-an-hour, and I promise to keep you alive and not abandon you in the forest for being a huge pain in the ass, and we'll talk about college when you're older."

(Actually, *that last sentence* also applied to my older son when he was a teenager).

1 Like

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**superjaz** #145 October 23, 2019, 8:42pm

Not bragging but my kids are really lucking out!

So a mom ASD group acquaintance is giving away a playground set 2 swings, slide small climb walk, and we got picked to get it. On top of that 3 different friends have offered to help with it disassembling, transport, unloading. I didn't even ask. I realized that last night.

So after chilli and Mysterium for the helpers!

This is huge for my kids because public parks are often a no go because they are runners.

7 Likes

---

**pshapiro** #146 November 6, 2019, 4:33am

New parent here! Like [@Benkyo](#) I was blessed by twins, a little boy and little girl. They're awesome, but my wife and I are certainly working harder than we ever have in our lives. At least they're (mostly) sleeping through the night. Everything else is one big logistical challenge of doing two things at once.

On the topic of IVF, there are certain genetic markers and biological states that predispose you to having twins. My wife and I had none of them and were really blindsided by it. They should teach about this in health class. "If you get pregnant, you might end up with two or more babies".

7 Likes

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**Benkyo** #147 November 6, 2019, 4:46am

pshapiro:

They should teach about this in health class. "If you get pregnant, you might end up with two or more babies".

Yeah. after our first child we always planned to have a second. Took a while, but we overshoot! 5 people in our 40 m2 plot of land is going to get a little tight...

Like you, we just hit that 1/100(?) chance, with no indication of increased odds or anything else, but I don't think they go in for such testing over here. There was even a remnant of a third fetal sac, indicating we came close to triplets!

How old are yours now? we're 11 months in, and watching them interact is getting ever more entertaining.

2 Likes

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**superjaz** #148 November 6, 2019, 5:47am

This is US specific, but has the time change Sunday been affecting anyone's kiddos?

It really throws my oldest off. Fighting sleep and waking early (well earlier).

This morning at 4:30 am he was mad it was still "Night night time" Eventually I set a timer to 5:30 am and told him when it went off it was day time.

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**pillbox** #149 November 6, 2019, 6:01am

superjaz:

This is US specific, but has the time change Sunday been affecting anyone's kiddos?

It's hard to say for our daughter whether it was staying up late and eating a piece of candy or on Halloween that caused ripple effects through the weekend or if it was the time change.

She usually wakes up early (5 to 6) and just plays with her feet or pajamas or... Well, who knows... Until we get her up. But the last week she's been all over the place. One morning she's up at 4. They next we have to go wake her at 8.

We usually struggle to get 7pm bedtime on time on the weekends due to scrambling to get errands done and whatnot so she didn't actually fall asleep until an hour and a half later than usually this past Saturday, but she's been sleeping longer (in general; <crosses fingers>) since then even now that we're back to "normal" bedtime.

---

**Benkyo** #150 November 6, 2019, 6:06am

pillbox:

...7pm bedtime...

Aww, that would be amazing. *Hours*, every day, all to ourselves...

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**pillbox** #151 November 6, 2019, 6:19am

Benkyo:

Aww, that would be amazing. *Hours*, every day, all to ourselves...

Well, that *was* the plan. And it worked great for our toddler up until our newborn came around. The new one (about 4 months) likes to wake up 3 times during the night, so my partner goes to bed at 9 with the baby. I usually join her but not always. 7 is when we start bedtime and we don't finish until usually close to 8... So it's about an hour or so and sometimes the baby will nap while we melt into the couch and watch a show before bed... And sometimes the baby will scream for no reason other as a test of our will to still be planning to have a 3rd one some day.

3 Likes

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**Benkyo** #152 November 6, 2019, 6:33am

OK, jealousy dialled back a bit, but a show on the couch still sounds like extreme luxury =P

In our case, K is usually ready to sleep around 9, so he's first, then I'll get our eldest to sleep from about 10 to 11 with bedtime stories, and I'm out by then too. M usually needs to be in a sling while H finishes cleanup and they tend to join K around 11. H deals with K and M waking during the night, then I'm up at 5 to take over when K wakes up for real. M and our eldest usually join us after 7, and I wake up H at 8.

1 Like

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**Scribbs** #153 November 6, 2019, 9:22am

Clock changing away from my daughter too (she's almost 4). The clocks went back an hour a couple of weeks ago in the UK, and she's only just about got her body clock to realign and is waking up at a more reasonable time (ie sometime after 6 rather than closer to 5am). It's a double whammy of sleep deprived parents, and a toddler who then is awake for too long and getting too tired at the end of the day 'cause they got up too early.

---

**Cokho** #154 November 6, 2019, 9:42am

The time rolling back one hour last week has just now been "assimilated" by my kids. For us, it was not so much the "putting them to bed" or "waking up early" though that was the hardest, but the time when I had to cook before they eat and go to bed. They got so used to eating at 12, bed at 1 PM; that they became really agitated when the clock rolled back; hungry (hangry?) and tired.

BUT when it was time to put them to bed for the nap, you would think they fell asleep instantly. But the "sleep train" had rolled in and went away already, and I find myself with two girls tired but not sleepy anymore; a whole lot of washing up dishes to do, and no break between the morning and the afternoon.

It was not a fun week, but it is getting better, and I think they're catching up on lost sleep; having huuuuuge nap where I can do whatever I want! Yey!

EDIT: I also want to put on here a more positive story (because I think if I write only what is bad with parenting, I will almost convince myself of it, even though I love it.). Yesterday, something magical happened. After breakfast, I have usually a few minutes where I ask my kids to leave me alone while I finish my cup of coffee. I can have between 10 to 30 minutes of "alone time" where I can read a book or just think quietly; and they have to play together. Yesterday; I could not believe it, they played quietly for 2 FREAKING HOURS!!! I did not dare to move from my seat, slowly sipping on my cold coffee; while I heard them laughing, running around, reading book to one another, not even making a huge mess. I love to just watch them play pretend or to try and remember broadly what is in a book (they obviously can not read yet). My heart was melting, I got my first "oh shoot, my kids are growing up" moment I think.

8 Likes

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**Griffster77** #155 November 6, 2019, 9:53am

I love how any thread about parenting usually devolves into talk about lack of sleep. It's the parenting constant...

3 Likes

---

**pshapiro** #156 November 6, 2019, 9:50pm

Luckily, we weren't particularly effected by it.

1 Like

**Griffster77** #157 November 7, 2019, 9:42am

Cokho:

I can have between 10 to 30 minutes of “alone time” where I can read a book or just think quietly; and they have to play together.

We sometimes get this when they wake early and we just say go back in your room and play for a moment. Mostly, we might get up to 5 mins to wake up properly and get some clothes on. But just occasionally, they’ve been there so long we’ve fallen back to sleep and been woken up 30-60mins later with a plaintive ‘What are you DOING?’

1 Like

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**MinuteWalt** #158 November 7, 2019, 11:15am

And this leads to what family is all about: lumbering around in your under-things while the kids are bouncing off the walls.

They said it best in **Lilo and Stitch**: *“Ohana means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten. And the adults look really gross in the morning, I can’t imagine why, just roll with it.”*

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**superjaz** #159 November 20, 2019, 8:02am

That saying always makes me think of this family story.

So asd often hate 2 thing, hair cuts and nail trimmings. My oldest the first. So under advice we took him to watch [@COMaestro](#) get a cut.

Walk into the shop and it’s like the theme to every scary movie was playing to him and started to Melt down. I nope him out and leave Hubs to his hair cut.

But once kiddo realized dad wasn’t there he started to fight me to go back in to save dad.

Here is a kid faced with a situation that scared the crap out of him, but he would still face it to go back for dad.

10 Likes

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**Cokho** #160 November 27, 2019, 1:07pm

Hey, I need to vent a bit, and this seemed like as good a place as any.

► Vent inside

6 Likes

**COMaestro** #161 November 27, 2019, 1:30pm

Sounds like you need to child-proof your home a little more. We have two kids ourselves, aged 8 and 5 (6 in a week and a half), both on the autism spectrum, mostly non-verbal. You need two adults to be present to care for them in an unprepared environment. But at home, one can manage because we have done a lot to mitigate some dangers.

First, find some kind of lock that they cannot open for the windows. If they are the sliding ones, there are locks which screw onto the frame to prevent the window from opening past it, allowing you to crack it for some air, but not open it far enough for little ones to fall out of it.

Get some of the magnetic locks for cabinets and drawers which contain dangerous items, like knives or medicine. These locks require a strong magnet to slide the lock in and out of position, just make sure to keep the magnets out of reach. Keep your wife's bag in one of these cabinets if she often has needles and such inside.

Get a chain or latch lock installed near the top of your exterior doors, so the kids can't get outside without you. (We need to do this one ourselves.)

Keep an eye out for other things you can do to child-proof the house.

You are only human, and one adult caring for two kids is not the easiest thing to do. While you are busy with one, the other can get into mischief, so you need to do whatever you can to mitigate the dangers at home. Try not to beat yourself up over these things. Kids are wonderful, but trying little critters, and each one is different, meaning that just because some parents have no trouble caring for their kids and keeping them safe does not mean you are a bad parent for needing to do more to care for yours. Breaking down now and then is nothing to be ashamed of either.

9 Likes

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**COMaestro** #163 November 27, 2019, 5:26pm

SleepyWill:

[@COMaestro](#)'s advice is really good

What is "a phrase never spoken before"?

*Ding*

I win!



6 Likes

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**Benkyo** #164 November 28, 2019, 12:38am



[HOME](#) [VIDEOS](#) [GAMES](#) [PODCASTS](#)  
The only thing I had to add to the above so to say is that it seems to me all too easy to find yourself in a place where you are seeking a level of understanding from your kid(s) that is unrealistic.

My eldest is 4, going on 5, and while there is a lot more she understands now, I have to be very careful not to make assumptions about what she knows. She still has massive gaps in her knowledge base and emotional understanding that we haven't noticed yet, and sometimes she lacks a framework to understand something that seems like it should be quite simple. More often than not, it's my wife shouting "why are doing this?!" or "don't you understand?!" (because she is at home all day, and much more stressed) and it takes a level head to think, well, actually, no, she doesn't understand, and X and Y are things she needs to be taught first, and at some point we can come back round to Z.

7 Likes

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[superjaz](#) #165 November 30, 2019, 7:40pm

Also we earth quake strap bookshelves and dressers to the wall  
These are the ones we the silver on ones we don't use much and the white on a sliding back door.  
We have been there. There was one point when we realized 2 year old could pull themselves up a high window and unlock, on the second floor.



3 Likes

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**Benkyo** #166 December 19, 2019, 6:01am

International travel with infants, oh what fun.

First, let me just get the fact that it is costing us about \$5,000 just to visit the UK for a couple of weeks out of the way. \$5,000!

\$3,000 of that is the airfare for 3 seats for 2 adults and a child, because we just can't handle connecting flights and 24+ hours in transit, so we forked out for the cheapest possible (the only) 13 hour direct flight.

But at least we booked so early that I could freely choose the seats, so we got a front row and... oh wait, if we want 2 cots we'll have to split up. Nevermind, we'll make do with one cot.

Oh, what's the problem? You can't have two infants in the same row, because there's only one infant oxygen mask per row? Well, crap, I guess we'll split up, but at least we got the cots (2 out of only 4 on the plane).

AirBnB was the only option for accommodation, and it's expensive with really limited options where my parents live, but still cheaper than a hotel and much better for our needs... but there goes another \$2,000 (previously, we could have stayed in a guest room).

Fast forward a bit, and I'm double-checking our flights, only to find that BA has changed our seating. On the outgoing flight, we're now in window seats in the middle of a sea of strangers. Wtf? I look at the seating plan, and there aren't any cots at all, with the middle chunk of the airplane gone from the seating map. A few phonecalls later and we're told "terribly sorry, looks like the plane changed, nothing we can do about it. Oh, you weren't notified? That's weird, terribly sorry, normally you would be notified of all changes, including seating."

So now we are looking forward to 13 hours with infants in laps, squeezed in next to strangers who definitely won't want active and noisy 1 year old kids screaming and climbing over them. Sounds fun.

...and to top it off, today we learn that our eldest has contracted influenza, the real deal. She's been vaccinated, as has my wife, but I haven't, and the infants haven't. If any of us catch it, that's probably the trip cancelled. Hell, it might as well be all but cancelled as of right now.

What are the cancellation policies? Oh, right, \$500 back from the flights... er, nothing(?) back from AirBnB. Well, that sucks.

And my dad might well be dead by the time we get another chance to visit.

/rant

4 Likes

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**suz** #167 December 19, 2019, 8:30am

Ah man, I feel for you [@Benkyo](#) . I was in the same situation many years ago (except you've had way worse customer service from your airline). The bit about trying to see family who are very far away and their time on this earth is running out fast and you have to deal with all that amongst the chaos of young children... I know how stressful that is. So I'm thinking of you and your family right now.

7 Likes

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**superjaz** #168 December 21, 2019, 6:02pm

Ouch! That is crazy! If unable to go I would press a better refund due to the plane change and lack of information.

It reminds me of our trip to LA and all of us had the stomach flu. It was not pretty

1 Like

**Benkyo** #169 December 21, 2019, 10:42pm

How's this for a crazy update?

My brother, whose job seems to largely revolve around getting people he doesn't know to do things he wants them to do, wrote a lengthy email to the CEO and cc'd to the director of customer services, sent it to me, and pressed me to add details and send it on. I refused for a bit then caved.

A few hours ago, a senior underling of the customer services director wrote back, saying she understands my concerns and has reinstated the seats I originally reserved!

OK, first, wow, that's amazing and my brother is awesome.

Second, wtf? That means both the customer service reps I talked to were lying to me, even in the face of me calling out the discrepancy between the information they were telling me (plane change to plane with no cots) and the information I had on screen (same plane, just the economy+ part of the seating map "disappeared").

I hate that the kind of entitled approach adopted by my brother works, and standard customer service is designed to stonewall and lie!

Also, I wonder what our seating situation will be like. Empty? (section closed off for insufficient passengers) Containing VIPs? (section closed off for plebs?)

Also, no-one else has caught influenza yet! I'm pretty sure the neuraminidase inhibitor I inhaled saved me from that fate.

9 Likes

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**pillbox** #170 December 21, 2019, 8:37pm

I struggle with this kind of thing all the time at work. Things should be done because it's the right thing to do, not because of bureaucratic dances.

But, more often than not, at work at least, logic and common sense takes backseat to political games and, only rarely, can we align "the right/correct" thing with the business-socially-acceptable thing.

3 Likes

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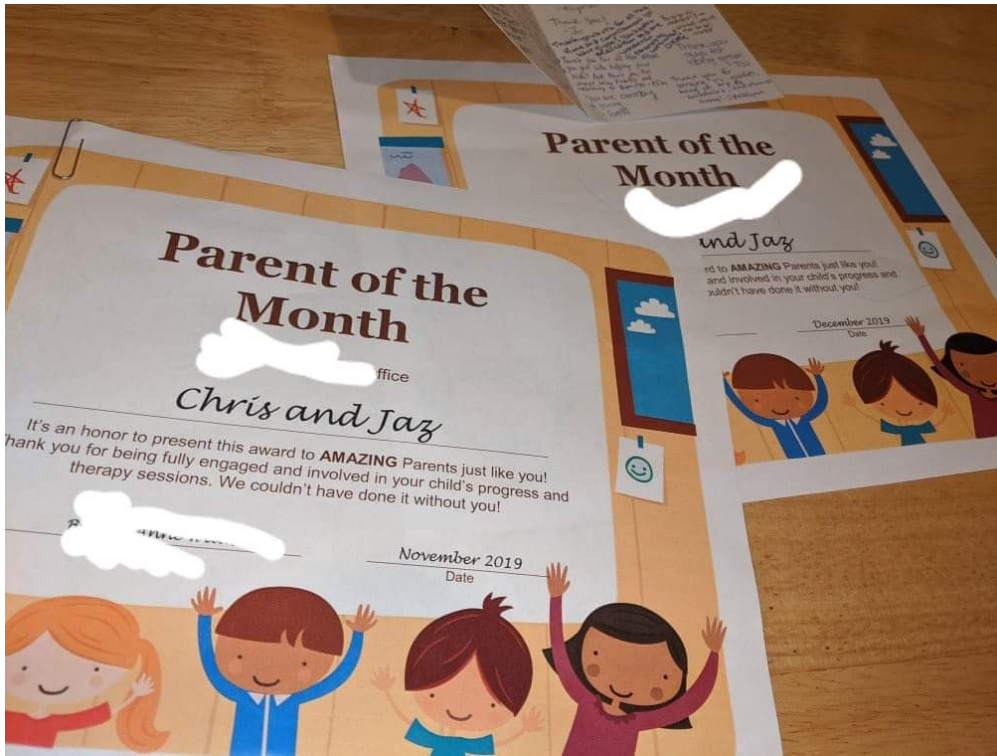
**superjaz** #171 December 22, 2019, 2:30am

Yeah it really is all over and boils down to squeaky wheel gets the attention. Anything from catching amazon shipping in a flat out lie to school services.

About a month ago I went to a autism parent forum and a common thread of how issues were resolved was "and then I got a lawyer" and I can tell you that isn't always an viable option.

Speaking of, my kiddos ABA therapy provider recently started a parent of the month. And they presented Chris and I with the awards for November (my oldest kiddo) and December (my youngest)

HOME VIDEOS GAMES PODCASTS  
We have no dad to be able to be happy, so it's nice to be recognized. Tho it came on the news older kiddos favorite therapist is leaving.



4 Likes

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[whistle\\_pig](#) #172 December 22, 2019, 8:11am

superjaz:

Tho it came on the news older kiddos favorite therapist is leaving.

That sounds tough. I hope the transition isn't too disruptive 🙌

1 Like

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[MinuteWalt](#) #173 January 5, 2020, 9:22am

[@Benkyo](#) This is why on international overseas travels, I just walk, and carry the kids on my back while they carry the luggage. It saves a lot of hassle.

My oldest son just flew to another State with his partner, had his laptop stolen by the PSA. They checked it out of its carrier bag, and just kept the computer without saying anything.

superjaz:

## HOME VIDEOS GAMES PODCASTLE

Yeah it really is all over and boils down to squeaky wheel gets the attention. Anything from catching amazon shipping in a flat out lie to school services.

Nailed it. My little one was about to miss a semester's worth of school because he was transferring in the middle of a school year, and we'd be defined as a "negligent family" even though there were acceptable life-changing circumstances. So we went to the school board, were told we couldn't see who we needed to see because they were "in a meeting for a few hours" (an obvious attempt to get us to leave), and told the receptionist, "Oh, that's fine, we've brought some books to read while we wait."

Out of there in 10 minutes, problem solved, just because they didn't want to deal with us sitting in their waiting area.

(It didn't hurt that my mom was there and acting a little bit psychopathic. Even though she didn't intend it, I thought it made an excellent good-cop, bad-cop dynamic that made them *really* not want us to be there anymore).

1 Like

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[superjaz](#) #174 December 22, 2019, 9:01pm

It really is, though I understand that people need to move on, and I wish them the best, because they are some truly awesome people, and I know she really cared about my kids.

Normally they set schedules 2 to 4 times a year for the therapy teams, but day after Thanksgiving they switched it all up with one day notice. Bunch of behaviors. We were hoping to get her back on the team when she gave notice.

New therapists are like substitute teachers. Kids after going to try to get away with whatever they can, and that spills to everything else.

1 Like

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[webs](#) #175 January 4, 2020, 1:44pm

In more lighthearted parental news, my partner went and bought the most awesome thing yesterday: Glow in the dark pacifiers!

Yay for no more irritated mumbling in the dark ("check your side damnit before she's starting to cry in earnest!") before one of us has to stumble into the kitchen to get a substitute.

5 Likes

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[fodder256](#) #176 January 4, 2020, 8:13pm

Glow in the dark anything is great.

We just got back from sitting the family car where our seven month old slept for 7.5 hours the second night, then a full 10 hours without waking either of us. First night back home and he's back to his usual three or four times up in the night.

We're now considering what we could do if we quit our jobs and moved to a tiny crossroads town in the back country.

3 Likes

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**MinuteWalt** #177 January 5, 2020, 9:36am

webs:

Glow in the dark pacifiers!

fodder256:

Glow in the dark anything is great.

Oh hells yes!

fodder256:

We're now considering what we could do if we quit our jobs and moved to a tiny crossroads town in the back country.

Having lived there, it weirder than you would think. It's like all the strange things about people get concentrated.

It's not as erratic as a large city, but much harder to escape from your bonkers neighbors.

Mid-size towns, you can keep the jobs (they keep you busy), you get the peace and quiet while still getting the convenience of schools, other families, and fairly close big-box stores (because, lets face it, sometimes you don't want to order a sweatshirt, a memory card, or a ream of paper from the internet).

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**Benkyo** #178 February 10, 2020, 10:55am

After having **lost last year**, we just found out we won the "daycare lottery"! H can go back to work, all three kids can interact with others of the same age every weekday from 8:30 to 17:30, and it's just so cheap and well-run.

It's going to be interesting adding the drop-off and pick-up by bicycle to my commute, and I'm not looking forward to the period every day before H gets home after 19:00, but still, great news.

6 Likes

**whistle\_pig** #179 February 10, 2020, 11:26am

Sounds like you need one of those Dutch cargo bikes!

2 Likes

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**Benkyo** #180 February 10, 2020, 11:44am

Yeah that would be nice. Still, we do have an electric assist bike with a pannier seat on the back and a seat affixed to the handlebars at the front. One more will go in a backpack-like sling. Bags in the basket on the front. It's going to be tight.

5 Likes

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**Cokho** #181 February 10, 2020, 12:22pm

That is so cool ! Amazing news for the daycare, I'm sure they're going to love it (and you will enjoy the 'time off').

We bought a "cargo" add on with two seatings for our girls last year so we could use our car less. The first time I tried it I was almost passing out from the effort, even though we only did a few kilometer. It is now only very rarely use because I find it so exhausting. I think we either need to invest in a electric bike or I need to train way more. And it's not like they are getting lighter 😅!

4 Likes

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**Benkyo** #182 March 2, 2020, 5:56am

Due to the Covid-19 scare, we've been asked to stop using the daycare until March 19, subject to any future equally-sudden changes in policy.

Japan, what are you thinking? Parents get through summer holidays and the like due to arrangements with schools, other parents, holiday camps, and the like. You can't just abruptly tell every working parent to keep their kids at home indefinitely. It's not like work is going to let us all stay home and pay us to look after our kids, is it?

Ugh.

And there's the toilet paper/tissues/hand soap/mask shortage, due to panic buying. Thankfully we snagged some toilet paper just as a store opened the day after the panic.

2 Likes

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**fodder256** #183 March 2, 2020, 8:06am



I hope you will consent to the Risk. Or some sort of studio Ghibli magic happens and they take care of each other for a few weeks. Actually thinking about all the studio Ghibli films I've seen that sounds less stress releasing and more traumatic.

We've had one confirmed case here, so the panic buying has begun. And the media reported it, so I imagine the supermarkets will be even worse tomorrow. No mention of toilet paper in the news though so hopefully we still have some in the country.

But seriously, good luck.

1 Like

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**COMaestro** #184 March 2, 2020, 8:08am

fodder256:

We've had one confirmed case here, so the panic buying has begun.

Same here. Just had a second case announced today, so it'll probably be worse tomorrow. 😞

1 Like

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**Cokho** #185 March 2, 2020, 8:23am

It feels a bit weird over here. I live in a (very) rural part of France, so I thought there would not be any chances to have the Covid19 come up to us. But then again, my wife is a nurse who goes into a lot of people's homes; and we had 5 cases registered a few kilometers away from where she works.

Then I thought, well at least the kids are not affected right? Well it turns out, of those 5 cases next to us, two are toddlers!

At least, not one of them is thought to be in danger, but they are quarantined in a hospital room. I can not imagine having to keep my two kids quarantined in a room.

My wife is probably the most worried of the family. They got some protocols to follow, but as always it is really not doable in practice. They are asking the General practitioners to send away all of their patients if they think they had one meeting with a possibly infected person; and to cancel all appointment for two weeks!

Can you imagine? We already have a huge shortage of doctors, our hospital are in rambles, and they can not even care for more people? Like, what about if my kids get sick with anything?

And that is not talking about the fact that my wife, who works with sick old people, can not order any masks! Her boss half-jokingly mentioned the fact that they should use cut up bras as mask when they're working!

I think the problem, at least over here, is that we're asked to keep informed and not panic, but we got PSA about Covid19 and what to do every half hour, and we keep getting updated where the virus is spreading. So even it is a bit irrational, we're all beginning to worry more and more.

**Benkyo** #186 March 2, 2020, 8:27am

Good grief, aside from anything else, toddlers in quarantine sounds nightmarish.

1 Like

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**Cokho** #187 March 2, 2020, 8:28am

Yeah! Especially in hospital room, two weeks with a lot of buttons you are not allowed to touch! Fun!

1 Like

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**superjaz** #188 March 3, 2020, 8:21am

I was mentioning Japan school closures to a friend in my special needs kiddos mom group. The thought of no school or therapy alone, but add with ASD unplanned schedule changes can be traumatic.

Adding to want [@COMaestro](#) said we've had 2 cases (same house hold), but they were in our county which doubled the craziness.

Supplies wise when shopping today I was more worried that if my family got regular colds, supplies might not be in stock, or like the water shelves were empty and gallons were going next, and I need distilled water for my cpap. Or like the one brand of kids liquid pain reliever that they will take. That kind of stuff, and basically got enough to allow everyone to be sick once. Plus some cleaning stuff which came in super handy because our youngest got ahold of gluten at therapy and was ill tonight. All. Over. Me.

This is the hydrogen peroxide, rubbing alcohol area at a store



Clorox Bleach area, notice the plentiful generic brand bleach, go figure. Funny enough this was the opposite of cold meds, expensive name brands had stock, but cheaper (not cheap) store brands were either gone or down to a few



Well, maybe Japan's government were more of the ball than I thought. The school closures are massively inconvenient, but the exponential increase in infections is proceeding more slowly here than elsewhere. S. Korea looks like the country to try and emulate.

I'm working from home and helping where I can, H is going crazy with the kids, but no real disruption here yet despite local cases confirmed and all the potential a city like Osaka has to get real bad real fast.

6 Likes

---

**superjaz** #190 March 12, 2020, 9:55pm

It's starting to escalate here. No public gatherings over 250, but most are being canceled. On the small scale everything but actual class is canceled.

Spring break is week after next, I'm sure they are trying to avoid starting early, but I know they will if they feel it's needed.

Last year my son's school district was targeted by I forget what they called it specifically, cyber attacks. Basically threatening school shooting at a random school in the district. They closed early for break when that occurred.

Today I was picking up my younger son and ran into my older son the office. I asked to sign in to walk him to class but I was told I couldn't because virus concerns. I was able to do that yesterday. Being kept from my kid in anyway is very triggering for me.

---

**Benkyo** #191 March 12, 2020, 10:00pm

All the reporting here indicates that the US totally dropped the ball on this and huge numbers of people are still in denial. I hope it doesn't go as badly as it looks like it might.

---

**Spoof** #192 March 13, 2020, 1:53pm

The University I work for is in full on panic mode. Aside from that, I am currently working with some community outreach and the difference in response between public schools and home schoolers is night and day.

The public schools here are hoping that they can make it to spring break in two days and that it will blow over before the break is over.

The home schoolers are all convinced it's some hoax or conspiracy since it's "Not any worse than the flu" and are pissed off that the public institutions and events they rely on keep cancelling stuff.

But basically, no one was taking any precautions whatsoever until two days ago. Now it's getting close to panic, and few have any idea what to do.

The only silver lining is that it doesn't seem to affect kids that much, so my students should be fine. Bit worried about their parents though, since they are mostly too poor to afford health insurance.

Hard to take 14 days off to self quarantine when you don't have sick leave, can't afford the doctor bill,

Makes me pine for ol' Nippon just a bit.

---

**pillbox** #193 March 13, 2020, 5:15am

My family's problems are minuscule compared to what many people are facing while dealing with Corona Virus concerns. My partner is not the type to stay at home all the time, so she's gotten our daughters into a pretty good routine of going to the public library for story time on Mondays, taking the girls with her shopping on Tuesdays, taking the girls to their grandparents on Wednesdays and usually finding one of our friends to setup a playdate with on Fridays. My partner enjoys getting out of the house and my 2.5 year old *thrives* on, no surprise here, routine.

Children's story time at the library has been cancelled through March. Grocery stores are full of panicked lunatics. Grandma and Grandma are (due to other factors) trying to avoid too much outside contact and many of our friends are entering self-imposed isolations (which is just good sense these days).

Honestly, people are dying (1 COVID-19 related death in my state as of today) so I shouldn't complain. But I really feel bad for my partner; she's already showing the additional stress of worrying about our family's health and now she'll be faced with a toddler and an infant that are out of routine and cannot be made to understand *why*.

1 Like

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**COMaestro** #194 March 13, 2020, 6:45am

Spoof:

The home schoolers are all convinced it's some hoax or conspiracy since it's "Not any worse than the flu" and are pissed off that the public institutions and events they rely on keep cancelling stuff.

Fox "News" watchers?

Seriously, with the president calling the pandemic no big deal and his sycophants backing him up on that and even going so far as to call the whole thing a hoax, it's a wonder the whole country hasn't died from the damn virus yet. I am not one to normally wish bad things on people, but this willful ignorance, denial, or outright deception angers me greatly and strains my usual nature.

1 Like

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**Cokho** #196 March 13, 2020, 9:28am

SleepyWill:

## HOME VIDEOS GAMES PODCASTLE

Imagine if your child in Italy now breaks their arm, and you have to take them to a hospital that is overwhelmed

Hear hear!

Over here, we just got what looked like a war speech from the president (Macron). Schools and daycare are closed for 2 to three weeks (although, they were already closed in the region where I live.). We are to remain as much home as we can.

My wife still has to go to work, as a home nurse, she can not stop seeing her patient who needs injections or medicine. But the thing is she has a lot of quite obviously infected and old patients, some not even caring about covering their mouth when they cough... There is not near enough mask to cover her, and the only one they have are not effective as a prevention methods.

I am not scared, not too much. My wife is pregnant (Whooo! Third child!) and they say pregnant women are not at risk. I'm a bit upset because a lot of things I used to do with my kids (library, games library, pool, music class) are closed and canceled. So we are getting a bit bored at home, I'm scrapping the end of my drawers for activities to do with them.

Two things really upset me, but more in a national/political way:

– At the beginning of the epidemics, and still now, they said that when you start to feel symptoms, you have to call the emergency medical number (we have something like 911, but most people use three different numbers depending on emergency : 15 for medical, 17 for police and 18 for firefighter).

So what is happening now is that the 15 number is flooded with call regarding Covid19, and can't be reached properly. It means people with urgent emergency can't be helped, and in any case, they stopped almost every testing or hospitalizing of non life-threatening Covid19 cases.

– Just before the epidemic hit us, we were in a month-long political battle on our retirement policy. I won't really get into it now, but I was quite invested: as a part-timer and then a stay-at-home parent, I will be heavily hit by the policy change; and they just passed it and closed every debate. With such a debated and controversial bill, I would have thought they could put it in standby while we're dealing with this, but they just let it slide; and I feel that's a bit crabby.

1 Like

---

**chrislear** #198 March 13, 2020, 9:53am

SleepyWill:

Italy - Mortality rate 5%

South Korea - Morality Rate 0.5%

I'm not disagreeing with any of your recommendations, but part of the explanation for this statistic might be that South Korea has a very widespread and well-used testing regime

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-51836898>,

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/italy-south-korea-differ-tackling-coronavirus-outbreak-200313062505781.html>), which might drive up the denominator compared to other

[HOME](#) [VIDEOS](#) [GAMES](#) [PODCASTS](#)  
columns that aren't testing so much. I read Arish Adalja

(<http://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-people/adalja/>) on Sam Harris's podcast (<https://samharris.org/podcasts/191-early-thoughts-pandemic/>) say that he thinks South Korea's data is more likely to be a 'true' representation of the risk of mortality of the disease because of this. Which might help to support the 'don't panic' recommendation, though nothing about this situation is exactly positive.

2 Likes

---

**superjaz** #200 March 16, 2020, 2:40am

Whew! Well I had a "fun" Thursday/Friday.

Looooong story short, basically an insurance error switched the insurance provider my oldest son had. I found out when I submitted a refill of his medication. I was called by the pharmacy, saying his insurance provider claimed he hadn't been covered since January 1st, and infact had a different insurance. *The pharmacy knew this was incorrect*

Enter many phone calls, BTW wait times for insurance calls are crazy right now.

(This was a huge deal because the medication requires special approval that had to be requested by my son's developmental ped from his insurance and can takes weeks. It Also time crunch because the medication is a compound can takes days to fill)

I was able to get his insurance straightened out and back dated to accurately show coverage had started January 1st and I received an apology email from a supervisor.

I got the RX resubmitted and we should have enough medication until it's filled.

Not we have to have an eye out for random doctor bills from the last months and have them rebill my son's insurance. Fun times. Left me burnt out. I also hate that it caused me to doubt myself, because it's so easy to drop a ball.

---

**Benkyo** #201 March 16, 2020, 2:43am

The whole system sounds nightmarish.

1 Like

---

**superjaz** #202 March 16, 2020, 3:44am

It really is. Navigating it is basically a job. I end up with lists of phone numbers and repeating the same information so many times.

Reminds me of a more funny yet frustrating series of incidents regarding my youngest (3 or 4 at the time).

His disability application kept circling different departments instead of going where it was supposed

[HOME](#) [VIDEOS](#) [GAMES](#) [PODCASTS](#)  
to asked the Department why they had to say-

Them: Well we need to look into this to make sure his needs for independence are met, what if he wants to live independently some day?

Me: He's 3, you know that he's 3 right?

Them:he's 3? Why do we have his application?

Me (inside many swear words, and barely stopping myself from many MANY sarcastic responses)

That's exactly what I want to know.

3 Likes

---

**Benkyo** #203 April 26, 2020, 11:59pm

Linked from "played games" thread:

Eh, I'm not sure that the idea of "limited" screentime is at all useful in our situation. Unfettered access means she gets bored of it sometimes, and avoids meaningless fights over screentime that we wouldn't be able to enforce consistently. I try to channel her viewing into English videos (she defaults to Japanese), and provide a few English/Japanese learning apps for when she's in the mood.

3 Likes

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### **Your Last Played Game (Volume 1)**

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**Chewy77** #204 April 27, 2020, 4:55am

Mine can be hours on end if you let them, and funny enough, after too much screen time you can see their behaviour gets affected by it (sort of like with a sugar rush, but more irritable and less energetic).

Every child is different, but I think the general rule of anything in moderation should help. But obviously, things like family time or e-teaching shouldn't count (to a degree). If my eldest has been a couple of hours with the screen doing e-learning of some sort (more now with the pandemic), I suggest changing to play in the garden or with her toys instead of continuing on the screen.

2 Likes

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**captbnut** #205 April 27, 2020, 7:08am

We've totally relaxed our screen time restrictions during lockdown because it's the only way my kids have access to their friends and the outside world. In fact, we keep pushing them to phone, text and video call their friends more to keep in contact.

Mine are 12&11 and the eldest especially had got to a point of being very independent; spending lots of time with friends (even girls).

As far as gaming goes, about 3 years ago they wanted to game with my wife and I all the time and with careful curation we had a great time. No take that, no fighting etc. Now they're older and are



bite a hand dig to see concepts they want to play less! We're 3 games into The Kings Dilemma at the moment with them. I'd wanted to play this with our game group, but that is zoom only at the moment and the boys were very keen to play it. It's not ideal but it's great to be sat round a table as a 4 again. Playing a lot of The Crew as well.

1 Like

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**superjaz** #206 April 27, 2020, 8:09pm

My kids school Lent us educational iPads to use for zoom teacher meetings and a few educational apps

But other then like can't search for R stuff not a lot of restrictions, and we can't set up any since we can't log in the apple account.

Their teachers and admin worked their butt off making these packets of worksheets and materials because they know a lot of kids work better that way. I really appreciate it

We've had some rough times, like might need to call a crisis line danger to self and others rough, but hanging in there.

This is so hard on my oldest.

3 Likes

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**Cokho** #207 April 27, 2020, 10:20pm

I "liked" this message, but it was more in the spirit of putting a heart next to it.

I can't imagine how hard it must be for you as a family to live through this crisis. I'm sending you good thought.

1 Like

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**Benkyo** #208 April 28, 2020, 12:00am

Hugs to superjaz, and everyone else in this thread. With the ~~death~~ murder of the forum, and all the suggested alternatives being gaming and chit-chat focused, threads like these are the ones I'll miss most.

6 Likes

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**VictorViper** #209 April 28, 2020, 3:10am

I had been waiting for months to announce this in here, and to get into the thick of it with you all. Sadly now it looks like announcing is all I'll be doing. 😞



13 Likes

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**pillbox** #210 April 28, 2020, 3:25am

Congratulations!

Unnamed Human Female is such a beautiful name!

2 Likes

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**pillbox** #211 April 28, 2020, 3:31am

The next week is going to be crazy for you. I envy and pity you. I hope you and your family take some quiet time between feedings and diapers and just cuddle on the couch.

When you figure out how to get to sleep at night and have the brain power to spare, track us down on the discord server or by way of taking note of various contact details people are posting.

2 Likes

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**Scribbs** #212 April 28, 2020, 6:00am

Congratulations!

1 Like

**Chewy77** #213 April 28, 2020, 6:06am

Congratulations. You have to love them when they sleep... cause when they don't it's proper mayhem 😁

2 Likes

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**COMaestro** #214 April 28, 2020, 6:19am

Congratulations! Soon you too shall know the joy of sleepless nights, early mornings, and poopy diapers! 😊

2 Likes

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**VictorViper** #215 April 28, 2020, 6:31am

Got all three of those going for me already. Who needed those brain cells anyway, right? Sleep is a myth.

2 Likes

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**Griffster77** #216 April 28, 2020, 6:35am

Congrats!!

1 Like

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**VictorViper** #217 April 28, 2020, 6:41am

Thanks all!! Very much in love. 🍷🍷

1 Like

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**RossM** #218 April 28, 2020, 7:41am

Is that doubled barreled?

Congratulations!!!

2 Likes

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fodder256 #219 April 28, 2020, 7:44am

Awww, look at her adorable nose. Congrats UHF on (likely) becoming the last forum member (by proxy).

Also, Congrats [@VictorViper](#) . I hope it's all smooth sailing from here.

2 Likes

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[Scribbs](#) #220 April 28, 2020, 7:48am

I think these last few days of the forum are a good time to share my current parenting 'success'.

Yesterday my four year old was listing off all her favourite things - 'Ponies, cats, and *hobbits*'.

11 Likes

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[superjaz](#) #221 May 1, 2020, 10:57pm

Congratulations!

That name is a lot of words that at my current energy levels I will misspell.

So going with Lil 'jelly bean!

2 Likes

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[whistle\\_pig](#) #222 May 1, 2020, 11:08pm

Congratulations! Have you taught her any games yet 😊

2 Likes

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[pillbox](#) #223 May 1, 2020, 11:15pm

My favorite game for newborns is **Sleep at Night** and, of course, the expansion **All Night**

6 Likes

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[VictorViper](#) #224 May 1, 2020, 11:40pm

Thanks again for the continuing congratulations, all, you're the best!

Currently working out strategies for the spatial puzzle known as the changing station. The solitaire mode can get tricky, especially when I include the onesie module. In future attempts, I'm going to look at the receptacle upgrades, see if I can raise the bar on my score.

Meanwhile my partner has been given square pegs for a round hole in **Latch 'em if You Can**. This one's still in a prototype phase and she'll be getting some help with that tomorrow. Hopefully she can milk out a few more points before the King in Jaune is summoned and the world ends.

Love y'all. I mean lookit. *Lookit!!*



8 Likes

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[pillbox](#) #225 May 1, 2020, 11:45pm

Truly a beautiful baby. I'm so happy for you and your partner.

1 Like

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[COMaestro](#) #226 May 2, 2020, 5:39am

She really is adorable. And so light to hold I bet! And stays wherever you put her. Ah, I miss those days...

4 Likes

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[captbnut](#) #227 May 2, 2020, 6:26am

Congratulations.

3 Likes

**superjaz** #228 May 2, 2020, 6:39am

Can I order 2 sets of those for [@COMaestro](#) as a father's day present? We've had some early mornings.

Not as bad as when babies tho. [@COMaestro](#) watched ALL of MAS\*H and Married with Children during weekend night feedings. I

3 Likes

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**Chewy77** #229 May 2, 2020, 9:04am

Congratulations!!! Such adorable sweethearts when they sleep...

3 Likes

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