

Parenting a 2-year-old is difficult, requires patience



ALICE MCCARTHY

ALL ABOUT FAMILIES
Alice McCarthy, who prepares this column, has asked Christine Delange to answer the reader's question this week. Delange is executive director of the Child Abuse & Neglect Council of Oakland County.

Q. Our little boy is 2 years old and we are having a very hard time with him. He is extremely temperamental and difficult to work with. How can we be better parents during this period? D.G., Birmingham

Being the parents of a young child is never easy and, in fact, it sometimes gets harder as your child grows older. Parents have to live up all their own daily responsibilities, while also devoting the time for effective parenting. As parents, we are our children's first and most influential teachers. We need to offer them consistency, clarity in communication and, most important, an environment of trust and respect.

This becomes the foundation that fosters their emotional growth and helps them learn to handle freedom and responsibility. Therefore, having genuine patience and understanding is the challenge.

Communication is a big issue as a child grows and becomes more aware and active. The child becomes more assertive and we, as parents, need to learn to listen even more effectively. Developing active listening skills mean being aware of nonverbal communication, such as tone of voice, facial expression, gestures, eye contact and posture.

Being a better listener also means not immediately reacting by trying to control the child or being domineering and critical. It means having the emotional restraint to let the child communicate fully with you. Another thing to remember is that whenever a child is given feedback for poor behavior that behavior may be repeated simply because that gets your attention.

Obviously, this does not mean to ignore negative behavior, but it does mean positive behavior needs to be recognized. When praising a child for something positive, it is helpful to identify what

it is he or she has done. For example, a parent might say, "You showed patience in waiting quietly for me to get off the phone."

Focusing on positive outcomes and providing praise will help the child develop his or her positive behavior into a consistent pattern. As a child matures, it becomes more and more possible to discuss situations openly. However, the parent needs to exercise the maturity to keep the communication genuinely open.

When the parent blocks communication by simply giving commands and advice, or reacts with sarcasm or a know-it-all attitude, this only increases the child's frustration. Strategies such as simply trying to please a child, or at the other extreme, intimidation, are not going to work in the long run.

The best approach is to keep communication open by imagining yourself in your child's place, and really appreciating how he or she feels. Childhood fears are also often difficult to work with because they seem unreal to the parent and there is no rational reason to account for them. Yet they are real to the child.

At 2, a child can be frightened by noises such as thunder, or even

the vacuum cleaner. Other causes of fear can be large objects, dark colors and changes in immediate surroundings such as moving a child's bed or possessions.

As parents, we need to consistently reassure a child that everything is all right but not ridicule his or her fears. Focusing on positive experiences and giving consistent support to a child will help these fears gradually fade away.

Effective parenting is a real challenge. It forces us to develop our communication skills, emotional steadiness, and wisdom and understanding. The peaceful parenting and positive learning experiences you provide during this difficult time will be richly rewarded as your boy grows and matures.

The Child Abuse & Neglect Council is the largest designated council of the Children's Trust Fund for the State of Michigan and serves Oakland County with programs to prevent child abuse.

For additional information on parenting skills and a copy of "The Peaceful Parenting Handbook," published by the council, send \$3.00 (check or money order) to: Peaceful Parenting, Child

Abuse & Neglect Council of Oakland County, 45 Franklin Blvd., Pontiac 48342-1702.

All About Families runs every other week in the Suburban Life section. Birmingham resident Alice R. McCarthy, Ph.D., is a nationally known parent educator, writer and editor. She is the mother of five children and grandmother to six young children. To leave a message for McCarthy, from a touch-tone phone, call (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1854, or write her at The Eccentric News-

papers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

For a list of referral sources and references on the above column, send \$2 cash (or check or money order made out to Bridge Communications) to: All About Families, c/o Sue Willis, The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Give date column appeared. Leave a daytime telephone number and indicate if you want delivery by fax or mail. The resource list is available up to 90 days after each column's publication.

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CLASS REUNIONS

- As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 30251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please include the date of the reunion and the first and last name of at least one contact person, and a telephone number.
- Benedictine**
WITH ST. SCHOLASTICA
Looking for 1939-1950 graduates and former parishioners.
Director of Alumni Relations, 17320 Rosemont, Detroit 48219, or (313) 531-0140
- CLASS OF 1978**
Wm. St. Scholastica eighth-grade class of 1971, Sept. 23.
(810) 363-5828
- CLASS OF 1988, 1989, 1991**
A reunion is planned for Sept. 23.
(810) 752-0020 or (313) 525-0446
- Berkley**
CLASS OF 1953
Sept. 16 at the Stephenson House, Hazel Park.
(810) 360-7004
- JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1951**
Aug. 17, 1990, at the Northfield Hilton Inn, Troy.
(313) 655-0770
- CLASS OF 1988**
Oct. 14 at the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn. Cost is \$40 per person.
(810) 751-8597
- Birmingham Baldwin**
CLASS OF 1943
Are planning a reunion.
(810) 645-0043
- CLASS OF 1946**
Is planning a reunion.
(810) 367-3030 or (810) 642-9635
- Birmingham High**
CLASS OF 1968
Nov. 3-5 at the Laurel Park Marriott Hotel, Livonia.
(810) 626-0673 or (810) 649-6032
- Bishop Gallagher**
CLASS OF 1978
Sept. 16 at the Edel and Eleanor Ford, Grosse Pointe Shores. Cost: \$45 per person.
(313) 981-0070 or (313) 881-6342.
- Bloomfield Hills Lahser**
CLASS OF 1978
A reunion is planned for Nov. 25.
(810) 360-7209
- Center Line**
CLASS OF 1978
Sept. 30 at Zuccaro's Country House, Canton Township.
(810) 294-6558 or (810) 263-6182
- Clarenceville**
CLASS OF 1940 AND 1980
Sept. 30 at the Livonia Holiday Inn, Livonia.
(313) 420-0773 or (313) 720-6594 (class of 1980), (810) 727-8250 or (810) 477-0877 (class of 1980), (800) 546-0660 or (810) 473-8920
- CLASS OF 1944 THROUGH 1965**
Are planning a reunion.
(313) 534-5721 or (810) 474-6203
- CLASS OF 1978**
Oct. 7 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Livonia.
(810) 437-9625 or (810) 437-9131
- Dearborn Divine Child**
CLASS OF 1988
Is planning a reunion for Sept. 16.
(313) 207-7007 or (313) 415-6320
- Dearborn Fordson**
CLASS OF 1946
Sept. 22 at the Fairlane Club, Dearborn.
(810) 626-5474
- CLASS OF 1988**
Nov. 6, 1990, at the Italian American Club, Dearborn. A pre-reunion get-together will be held Nov. 5.
(313) 274-8054 or (313) 864-3858 and (313) 441-4031 for the pre-reunion get-together
- Dearborn Sacred Heart**
CLASS OF 1978
Oct. 14 at the Park Place, Dearborn.
(810) 441-1721 or (313) 822-4034
- Detroit Angell Elementary**
CLASS OF JANUARY 1947
A reunion is planned for Sept. 23.
(810) 474-0012
- Detroit Cass Tech**
CLASS OF 1988
Sept. 23 at the Somerset Inn, Troy.
(810) 465-2277 or (810) 263-6003
- CLASS OF 1977**
A reunion is planned for June 1997.
Elizabeth B. Smith, 10609 Boscawen, Detroit 48224 or (313) 372-6657 after 4 p.m.
- CLASS OF 1988**
A reunion is planned for Aug. 9-11, 1996.
(810) 827-7930, or Cass Tech 1888 Reunion, P.O. Box 441244, Detroit 48244
- Detroit Central**
JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1958
Are planning a reunion.
(810) 651-7403 or (810) 626-7470
- CLASS OF 1954-65**
8 p.m. Sept. 29 at the Polish Century Club, Detroit.
(313) 330-2632 or (810) 616-3322
- CLASS OF 1948**
A reunion is planned for Nov. 30, 1996.
(810) 559-0505
- Detroit Chadsey**
CLASS OF JANUARY 1945
With class of 1944, Oct. 8 at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, Westland.
(810) 363-4029, (313) 535-3930 or (313) 658-9789
- JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1958**
Sept. 16 at the Clement Hall, Dearborn.
(313) 273-1559
- Detroit Cody**
JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1978
Oct. 28 at the Novi Hilton, Novi.
(313) 886-0770
- Detroit Cooley**
JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1948
Oct. 28 at Novi Hilton, Novi. Cost: \$50 per person.
(313) 416-1822 or (810) 604-2886
- CLASS OF 1968**
Sept. 30 at the Livonia Holiday Inn.
(313) 658-0770
- Detroit Denby**
CLASS OF 1988
Oct. 14 at the Sterling Inn, Sterling Heights.
(810) 585-2083 or (810) 647-3833
- CLASS OF 1943**
Sept. 17 at the Gourmet House, St. Clair Shores.
(810) 340-1521, (810) 263-5262 or (810) 347-1150
- JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1978**
A reunion is planned for Oct. 13.
(810) 373-1031
- CLASS OF 1988**
Nov. 25 at the Northfield Hilton Hotel, Troy.
(313) 686-0770
- CLASS OF 1988**
Sept. 23 at the Hillcrest Country Club.
(810) 620-1919 or (810) 730-0187
- JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1943**
Sept. 13 at the Red Run Inn, Farmington Hills.
(810) 773-5534 or (313) 686-5374
- JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1958**
Are planning a reunion.
(810) 548-7883 or (810) 777-3324
- Detroit Eastern**
CLASS OF 1948
Oct. 6 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, Warren.
(810) 549-2249, (810) 878-0490 or (810) 765-6180
- Detroit Finney**
CLASS OF 1978
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 652-0770
- CLASS OF 1978**
Nov. 24 at the Bantler House, St. Clair Shores.
(810) 886-0770
- Detroit Henry Ford**
CLASS OF 1978
Is planning a reunion.
(810) 478-6407 or (313) 342-8204
- Detroit Holy Redeemer**
CLASS OF 1948
Oct. 14 at the Shrine at Purdue Towers, Dearborn.
(313) 533-3364
- Detroit Gosu**
CLASS OF 1978
Oct. 14 at the Royal Oak Women's Club, Royal Oak.
(810) 478-4390
- Detroit Henry Ford**
JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1971
A reunion is planned for Aug. 17, 1998.
(313) 538-6503 or HFHS Class of 1971, 25th Reunion, P.O. Box 99424, Troy 48099-0424
- Detroit Mackenzie**
JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1948
Reunion planned for Oct. 14.
(810) 349-5245 or (313) 637-0041
- CLASS OF 1954, '60, '65, '67**
Combined reunion will be Nov. 11 at the Novi Hilton, Novi.
(810) 746-3340
- CLASS OF 1954**
A reunion weekend is planned for Sept. 22-24.
(810) 776-0069
- Detroit Mumford**
CLASS OF 1948 REUNION
Oct. 26 at the Athenium Hotel and Conference Center, Detroit.
(313) 686-0770
- Detroit Murray Wright**
CLASS OF 1978
Oct. 14 at the Athenium Hotel and Conference Center, Detroit.
(313) 686-0770
- Detroit Northeastern**
CLASS OF 1942, 1945, 1948
Sept. 17 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, Warren.
(313) 484-6411 or (810) 751-4905
- Detroit Northwestern**
CLASS OF THE 1940S
Sept. 29 at the Livonia Holiday Inn.
(810) 642-9678 or (313) 421-0598
- CLASS OF 1950**
Sept. 16 at the Western Golf and Country Club, Dearborn.
(313) 657-6573 or write to Rita McDonough Moschman, 34033 Moore St., Farmington 48339-4153
- Detroit Osborn**
JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1948
Sept. 16 at the Village House, Fraser.
(313) 686-0770
- JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1978**
Oct. 28 at the Bantler House, St. Clair Shores.
(313) 886-0770
- Detroit Pershing**
CLASS OF 1948
Combined class of 1949 and 1951, Oct. 7 at Zuccaro's Holiday House, Clinton Township.
(810) 331-3061, (810) 770-3883 or (810) 631-5178
- CLASS OF 1943**
Sept. 23 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, Warren.
(810) 626-8494
- Detroit Redford**
CLASS OF 1948
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 453-4087
- CLASS OF 1943-45**
Sept. 17 at the Novi Hilton, Novi.
(313) 686-0770
- JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1958**
1 p.m. luncheon Sept. 13 at the Dotsford Inn, Farmington Hills.
(313) 684-7838
- CLASS OF 1978**
Nov. 18 at the Detroit Athletic Club, Detroit.
(313) 622-0172 or by fax, (313) 622-0669
- JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1963**
A reunion is planned for Sept. 16.
(313) 425-7860 or (313) 277-2425
- Detroit St. Andrew**
CLASS OF 1957
Oct. 4, 1990, at Laurel Manor, Livonia.
(313) 463-1022
- CLASS OF 1948**
With the eighth grade class of 1941 reunion is planned for noon Dec. 10, Class of 1944-45 welcome.
(810) 448-8207
- Detroit St. Cecilia**
CLASS OF 1958, '66, '67, '68
Are planning a reunion.
(810) 730-8059
- Detroit St. Gabriel**
CLASS OF 1988
Sept. 23 at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Dearborn. Cost is \$25 per person.
(810) 333-2600
- Detroit St. Gregory**
CLASS OF 1958
Nov. 26 at the West Western Laurel Park Suites, Livonia.
(810) 480-0862 or (810) 308-6172
- Detroit St. Leo**
CLASS OF 1947
Sept. 23, Monaghan Knights of Columbus Hall, Livonia.
(810) 465-5483
- Detroit St. Theresa**
CLASS OF 1948
Is planning a reunion.
(810) 464-7941 or (313) 381-2024
- Detroit St. Vincent**
A REUNION IS PLANNED FOR OCT. 13.
(313) 591-1928, (313) 278-9185 or (313) 591-3513
- Detroit Southeastern**
CLASS OF 1948
Is planning a reunion for Sept. 16.
(313) 886-3197
- CLASS OF 1954**
Reunion luncheon 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club, Grosse Pointe Woods. Cost is \$22.
(810) 776-0069
- Detroit Southwestem**
CLASS OF 1953
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 588-4238, or Southwestem Class of 1955, P.O. Box 32463, Detroit 48232
- CLASS OF 1978**
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 633-6537, (313) 534-6368 or (313) 372-1020, or Southwestem Class of 1975, P.O. Box 44026, Detroit 48239
- Detroit Visitation**
CLASS OF 1944 AND 1963
Are planning a reunion for October.
(810) 687-7263, (313) 591-7715 or (313) 459-7161
- CLASS OF 1948**
Is planning a fall reunion with the eighth-grade class of 1941.
(313) 534-8716, (313) 773-2358, (810) 545-9622, (313) 538-6890 or (313) 533-1414
- Detroit Western**
CLASS OF 1948
Sept. 22 at the Warren Valley Golf and Conference Center, Dearborn Heights.
(313) 522-7715, (313) 291-5055 or (810) 442-0512
- CLASS OF 1988**
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 943-7001 or (313) 507-5807
- JANUARY-JUNE-SEPTEMBER 1965**
Sept. 30 at Ramada Inn, Northline Road, Southfield.
(313) 929-8011 (June or August) and (313) 333-3444 (January)
- Farmington**
CLASS OF 1944
Sept. 23 at the Warren Valley Golf and Conference Center, Dearborn Heights.
(313) 522-7715, (313) 291-5055 or (810) 442-0512
- CLASS OF 1948**
Sept. 30 at the Hunting and Fishing Club.
(810) 220-7885 or (810) 470-8745
- CLASS OF 1988**
Nov. 4 at the Burton Manor in Livonia.
(810) 360-7700
- Farmington Hills Harrison**
CLASS OF 1978
Nov. 24 at the Bay Pointe Country Club, West Bloomfield.
(313) 601-6889, (810) 666-1758, (810) 471-4203, or Harrison Reunion 1978, P.O. Box 531464, Livonia 48153-1494.
- CLASS OF 1984**
Nov. 25 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Livonia.
(810) 488-0074
- CLASS OF 1968**
A reunion is planned for Nov. 25.
(810) 344-0443
- Farmdale Lincoln**
JANUARY-JUNE CLASSES OF 1948
Are planning a reunion.
(810) 544-8208 or (810) 547-2511
- CLASS OF 1988**
Sept. 30 at the Northfield Hilton Inn, Troy.
(810) 846-3065 or (810) 474-3399
- JUNE CLASS OF 1958**
A reunion is planned for Sept. 30.
(810) 685-5682
- JUNE CLASS OF 1943**
Sept. 10 at the Double Tree Guest Suite Hotel, Troy.
(810) 688-5497
- Fraser**
CLASS OF 1958
Reunion is planned for Oct. 7.
(810) 740-6344 or (810) 852-0435
- Grosse Pointe**
CLASS OF 1948
June 15, 1990, at the Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe.
(313) 886-0770