

Chat room from page B1

length of the entire wall in the room, conspicuous place in the room... and you have no remedy with which to repair it. You are fully aware you have developed patience when you resign yourself to the fact that this beautiful papering job you painstakingly fit in not even a year ago now has to be completely redone.

indelibly scratched into the porcelain bathroom countertop belongs to the notorious wallpaper ripper you just forgave for the aforementioned blunder. When the new pants you purchased for another kid are ripped the first time worn while jumping the backyard fence. As you find yourself tutoring yet another new reader. When it seems so simple to you but obviously challenging to the novice reader, and you have to muster

the ability to encourage and be excited over each new word that is really not a new word at all but one getting moldier by the minute.

Where you truly belong

Patience shows when you have made elaborate arrangements to attend a function, only to have a child fall ill that morning. You consider momentarily how you could still make things work, then realize your job necessitates caring for your sick child, that here is where you truly belong even if you don't feel like it. You know you have developed considerable tolerance when

three different health care personnel separately enter the exam room where you hold your crying/bleeding/injured child to inquire exactly how it is the potentially excruciating injury occurred. Feeling terrible at the prospect of someone even thinking it could be an abuse injury, you recognize it is a necessary cog in the wheel of standard treatment procedure.

Forbearance shows when you sit through a Barney episode because your child wants you there. When you endure embarrassment, humiliation, disappointment, deep sadness and many other emotions at the hands of your child, feelings you rarely visited, even actively avoided, in your pre-children days. When you learn to accept that there is rarely a meal that can satisfy everyone, and at least the word "yuck" is some response.

longer the mess in your kid's room but instead the rock museum he set up, and you can even summon forth a compliment. You demonstrate true restraint with the recognition that the majority of rocks in the state of Michigan - and a good portion of the remaining Midwest - are on display in his room and the prospect of cleaning it only mildly makes your skin crawl.

It's obvious you have considerable self-control when you have endured potty training for the umpteenth time and realize that even though there are still a few individuals with lousy sense in your house, at least you are done with diapers. When you finally have time to take your Calgon bath, but the water is ice cold and you have to wait. When "Mommy!" rivets you from the best slumber of your life to clean up whatever mess your sick child has made. And your tired, aching arms can still provide comfort.

ate. As you begin to understand that know-it-all four discovery that they actually know very little, and those who boast and brag most are typically glaringly insecure. When you find yourself growing up, putting another's needs ahead of your own. You know you have patience when you have learned all these things and can pass this knowledge on to your children.

Patience seems to become self-generating at times. The more you use it, the more you have. Like a deep well whose depth is uncertain, you are able to dip your bucket time and again without hitting bottom. You discover this great well of tolerance when life comes full circle and you begin to appreciate the indisputable patience your parents drew from in raising you.

And, as is often true in life's ironic twists and turns, you discover it is frequently your children who teach you the very essence of patience.

Kathie O'Donohue is a mother of five children living in Farmington Hills.


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Phases, too, shall pass

When you start to understand there is a pattern to children's behavior, that phases are not only very real, but they do pass. When your primary focus is no

demonstration featuring "Beef and Vegetable Skillet," at 6 p.m. Monday, May 11, at the Farmington WW center, West River

Learn to cook well with beef

Farmingtons from page B1

Midwest Farmingtons

America's middle west claims five (not counting Michigan) Farmingtons. The name is often a reflection of the region's major occupation. The farming states of Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa each has a Farmington.

Farmington, Missouri sent a large packet with state, county and city information. With a population of 6,600 people, the town has an airport, two hospitals, and its own home page on the World Wide Web. Its largest employer is the Farmington Correctional Center. The town was incorporated in 1836 but this year is celebrating the bicentennial of its founding. Seventy miles south of St. Louis, Farmington has six public and three parochial schools.

From Illinois, we received six identical small brochures claiming that the Farmington there was "a great place to plant your feet and grow." Incorporated in 1834, it has 2,600 people. The brochure boasted about its health system, health care, churches, parks and emergency

services. Each year, the town has a Taste of Farmington and a Civil War re-enactment.

Farmington, Wisconsin is unincorporated. On the far western edge of the state, the rural community has 1,200 people, two churches, two taverns, a convenience store, gas station, hairdresser, woodworking shop and softball field. Near the St. Croix River and the city of Osceola, it was proud to be the site of an aircraft control and warning squadron during the Cold War, watching for attacking Soviet aircraft.

Farmington, Minnesota started as a watering station on the Minnesota Central Railroad (now the Soo Line). Established in 1865 and incorporated in 1872, it is proud of its historic businesses and Victorian homes. With a population of 7,000, the town features a county fairgrounds with a collection of historic buildings called Dakota City. This community, too, has a Founder's Festival in June.

Despite having just 700 residents, Farmington, Iowa has three schools and six churches. Attracting the farming families of southeast Iowa, the town has a Pioneer Museum and an annual Strawberry Festival.

Out west, Farmington has a home in Utah and New Mexico.

Just north of Salt Lake City, Farmington Utah is tucked between the Great Salt Lake and the Wasatch Mountains. This town of 9,000 residents claims to be home of the Lagoon, the largest amusement park in the Intermountain West.

One of the best known Farmingtons is in New Mexico. A city of 40,000, it was originally called Farmington where homesteaders built a flourishing farm and ranch economy. The town was incorporated in 1901 and became an energy boom town in the 1950s when large-scale oil and gas developments attracted workers. The city borders a Navajo Indian reservation and the nearby ancient Indian ruins, breathtaking scenery, and Shiprock, a giant geological formation. Like us, it has a town: nearby called Bloomfield. It also has an international Balloon Festival each year.

Farmington, Michigan gets its name from Farmington, New York, where Arthur Power, town founder, originated. Still no word from the Farmingtons in New York, Georgia, Washington, Kentucky, New Jersey, Pennsylvania or California. If you visit, send us a postcard.

David Litogot is a local historian and teacher at Wooddale Elementary in Farmington Hills.

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