



The Splash

Captain's Log

Juliana is five now, and asking more and more questions...at times she literally won't stop talking! Most of her questions are totally out of left field and are something like, "Do we have blood inside us? Is it sticky and gooey on the inside like it is on the outside, cause that's gross?" But she is starting to ask more and more questions about God, Jesus, why things are the way they are, how did something get one way or another... you get the point.

I used to think I would be prepared for this day. I mean, I know all the basics to include the plan of salvation but somehow a five year old's brain skips past that and goes straight for the zingers. Have you ever tried to explain how God "fits" inside your heart to live there?! This past week our dog died very suddenly and I dreaded having to explain it to her. How do I explain it in a way that won't spark more questions than I can answer but not lie and just say the classic

movie line "All Dogs Go to Heaven"?

After a couple of these interactions I have found that my basic bible knowledge will not get me by as a mommy; I have two disciples (and one on the way) under my teaching every day. To echo the article, my kids have been entrusted to me and I have been instructed to train them up in the way they should go; that means being able to spit out specific verses for life events. Check out these examples from the article:

-When my daughter asks me one day who is stronger, God or Satan? I know exactly what to say (2 Peter 2:4)

-When my son asks why God would let a little kid die, I get to tell him that God is in charge of everything and does everything for His glory, even when we don't understand (Romans 8:28)

-When my adopted son asks me one day why his biological mom couldn't take care of him, I can lead him to God's word

where we learn that God uses everything in this world to bring good...even orphans (Genesis 50:20)

As moms, we are teachers every day. Every time we can use Jesus in a conversation it teaches our children to love and trust the character of God and provides a sense of security for them. We get to be the ones that point them to God's word as they learn how to deal with life events. Let's think of it as a privilege not a burden.

Adrienne Murphy,
Co-Coordinator



Disclaimer: I totally stole the idea for this article from "Parent Life" Magazine; one of two free magazines always out on the spinning rack by the child-care check in. They are new every month...Go pick one up, its FREE!

Better Moms Make A Better World

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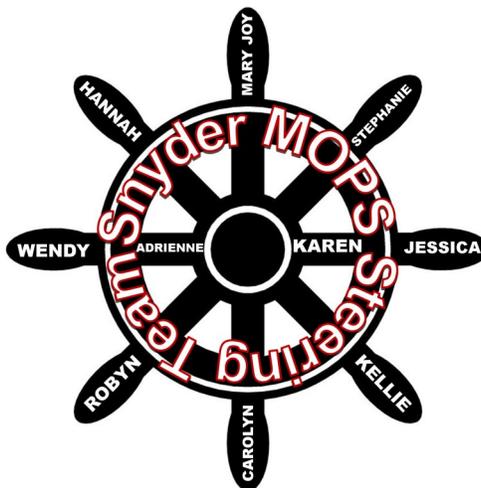
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Deep Sea Diving: A Mentor Moment with Diana Juergens

The following is my response to the questions dealing with relationship drama between siblings, potty training frustration and temper tantrums in public. First, let me say I have made many mistakes in my mothering over the last 25 years but the one thing I have learned and do well is rely on God to help me parent. I absolutely believe that one of the reasons God gives us our children to help us come to the end of ourselves and depend on Him more. All three of these challenging topics in parenting are truly out of our ability to control. We need the Lord's discernment to handle each because children are born with a will (their sin nature erupts early in life).

I have learned to start with prayer. Prayer changes the heart and sometimes it's my own heart that needs to be right before I can bring correction and training to my children. God needs us to respond with His spirit of self control as we parent without anger or pride.

When one of my children throws a temper tantrum in public I need to respond with patience but also with authority. If she is unwilling to stop the behavior with a word of correction then it is time to stop shopping and leave the store to be able to discipline her as needed, and to show her she is NOT going to get her way by throwing a tantrum in an inconvenient place.

In the potty training season, we must first discern if our children are ready to train. Sometimes as parents we start too early or push too hard because we compare with others. Children will show signs of being ready to train. Watch for those first and then begin the process of potty training. Set a schedule and be consistent with

it. Frustration arises as our children demonstrate their will and don't want to obey when we are training them to use the toilet. With God's help you will know whether your child is inserting her will or she really is not ready to train. Do NOT let yourself get angry if an accident happens. Be prepared with extra clothes if outside of your home and still maintain your routine schedule. Once our children demonstrate the ability to use the potty on a regular basis then hold them to that standard while allowing for legitimate accidents.

The most challenging is the emotional drama that occurs daily between children. In our home full of girls it is a daily training event. Mom's it starts with us! My husband recently reminded me that my example is key to helping our girls handle all that emotion inside of them! This is where God's word and prayer will make all the difference. Start early teaching your children verses that will help them respond with God's heart with one another. Pray daily with them to love one another. But even as you train them expect conflict. It's how we help them resolve conflict that makes the difference. Teach them what forgiveness is all about and make them apologize when they have hurt a sibling with their rash words. Be sure to get to the real heart issue. My husband often says rash words are a symptom of something deeper. Is the child causing the drama angry? Frustrated? Again, our need is to hear from the Lord to show us the heart of our children so we can help.

"Do NOT grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not lose heart." Gal 6:9.

Can you spot the **OOPS**?

Each month there will be an intentional **OOPS** somewhere in the newsletter! Find it and then at the next months meeting enter to win a door prize! Just look for



the jar labeled **OOPS**!

Happy Hunting!

Monthly Plunger Challenge

What does your family value above all? Love? Forgiveness? Honesty? Laughter? **This month try coming up with your family rules!** Start by listing your favorite things to do together and look for the common theme to emerge!

The Snack Shack by Tara Crawford

Chocolate Chip Cookies



Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 Cups Flour
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 Cup Sugar
- 3/4 Cup Brown Sugar, Packed
- 2 tsp. Vanilla Extract
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups chocolate chips

Directions:

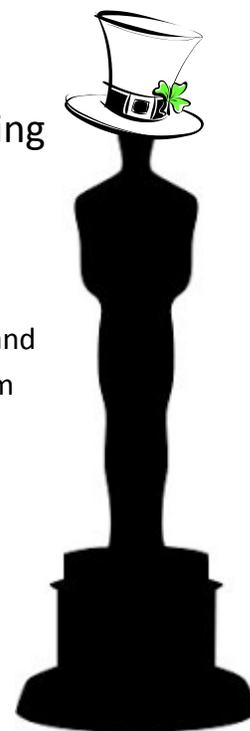
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Stir flour with baking soda and salt; set aside. Beat butter with sugar and brown sugar at medium speed until creamy. Add vanilla and eggs, one at a time, mixing on low speed until incorporated.

Gradually blend dry mixture into creamed mixture. Stir in chocolate chips. Drop by tablespoon onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes or until golden brown.

You are Cordially Invited to a morning of glitz and glamor honoring the ladies of MOPS at.....**THE MOPSCARS!**

Come Red Carpet Ready! May 3, 2013 9:30am

Do you own a feather boa, long gloves, or any other glamorous accessory? If you do, and you are willing to let us use it for this event, please contact Kellie.Ross0421@gmail.com



Happy Birthday!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4TH-Maddison Caldwell

15TH-Cindy Foley

25TH-Lindsey Blackmon

April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MOPS monthly meeting

9:30am



MOPS Morning In

9:30am



Mellow Mango

3:30 pm



MOPS Night Out

4pm-8pm



Playdate in the Park

10:30am



My Own Kind of Perfect by Karen McAmis

Let me tell you about the kind of mom I planned on being. I was going to be the “quintessential” mom. The kind who never yells at her kids, always keeps her cool, and has it all together no matter what life throws her way. I was going to have the most well-behaved and respectful children. I was going to be the mom who has a clean house, always has a hot, healthy meal on the table for dinner and still has quality time to spend doing arts and crafts and developmental activities with my kids. I planned on being the sweetest, most patient mom. And I was going to have the best and most creative ways to teach my children a lesson (because I’d never have to actually discipline them). I was pretty much going to be June Cleaver.

Instead, I live in the real world. The world where I don’t have it all together; where I’m still trying to perfect the art of patience and gentleness. I do have to discipline and I may or may not have raised my voice a time or two. I live in the world where my house has been overtaken by toys and boys that are not always perfectly polite. But you know what? That’s fine. That’s what my family is, and I’m ok with that. My family is my own kind of perfect.

We all have our own family culture that we have created. My family does “pizza on the porch” Fridays, we act out our Bible stories instead of just read them, we take

family naps on Sunday afternoons, and the list goes on. We are working on our family and what we want to be known for. It can’t be done overnight. Playful. Loving. Respectful. These are a few words I want my family to be known as. We’re still working on perfecting a couple of these words, but I would say God’s not finished with us yet.

Philippians 1:6

“He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it!”



PLAYDATE UPDATE

**Monday, March 18, 10 am –
Monkey Joe’s**

Don’t forget – Monkey Joe’s play date is next Monday! If you signed up on Facebook or at a previous meeting, please see Jennifer Hannah TODAY to pay (\$7.50 for each child. Adults are free).

Monkey Joe’s
102 Westwood Shopping Center

**Thursday, April 11, 3:30 pm –
Mellow Mango**

Bring your young’uns, your appetite, and a smile for a post-nap afternoon outing to Sweet Frog for some tasty fro-yo. Select your own combination of soft-serve frozen yogurt, then complete it with toppings of your choice. No need to signup for this date, just show up!

Mellow Mango
2800 Raeford Rd

**Wednesday, April 24,
10:30 am – Play Date at the Park**

Join us at Honeycutt Park for a standing play date on the last Wednesday of every month. The park has two playgrounds, one of which is specially designed for toddlers. Bring a picnic lunch or snack for a refreshment in the pavilion area (optional).

Honeycutt Park
352 Devers Street