

1. IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO IMAGINE WHEN OUR DAUGHTER WAS ONLY A BABY THAT DAVIDITE WOULD EVER REALLY ENJOY HER SOME DAY. When she was a demanding infant, he seemed disgusted & even resentful of her clumsy, bothersome ways. But since around 3 years or so, he's thoroughly enjoyed her companionship & the Lord has seemed to use these together to sort of balance one another out in baby ways.



Davidite at 2 1/2 years. David at 3 1/2 years.

2. THEY ARE 14 MONTHS APART IN AGE & seem to be "opposites" in almost every way possible, not only in physical appearance & gender, but in behaviour, learning capabilities, & of course, spirituality. Even now when I read over the learning activities & progress that David made when at Davidite's age of 2 1/2 years, I'm almost shocked to see the difference in their competence, progress, interests & especially maturity in the Lord. David certainly is a very special child, that's for sure.

3. SO EVEN THOUGH I FIND MY "OWN" LITTLE GIRL altogether different from him & not at all as gifted as Davidite, I still try to follow the standard & guidelines of training from the temple that has been

set from Dad & Maria's diligent & loving training & care for David, raising him up as a disciple for the Lord. Even though I have helped to teach David myself & know "it can be done" & that a small child is certainly capable of learning a great deal more than can be expected, I, too, have had to accept, like all of you, that every child is different, including my own who has her own certain interests, talents, ideas & loadings that I must follow & respect if I expect any fruits from her



Cuddlebugs in bed:

training & schooling. Hallelujah! I love to see how children can be different one from another & be their "own little person"! It's a great challenge & also lots of fun. So we're really happy together, PLL!--And we're really happy in Jesus, growing & learning a lot of lessons together!

4. DAVID NEVER SEEMED TO PLAY THE NORMAL FANTASY GAMES that children usually do. It was Davidite who taught David a lot about make-believe & imagination. One evening they made a project out of washing one of Davidite's little stuffed animals. She led David in pretending the stuffed dog was a baby & both children were extremely gentle, washing & scrubbing the toy with baby shampoo in a little basin, then they dried him off with a towel, cuddling & handling him very carefully. David, "the mechanic", even suggested using the hair-dryer so he wouldn't get chilled!

5. THEN HERE THEY EVER SURPRISED WHEN I HURRIEDLY PICKED UP THE MET SODGY DOG BY THE EARS to hang him up to dry from the shutters right outside our window. Both of the children acted like their hearts were broken to see their nice clean "baby" hanging by the ears & miserably sagging in the middle! I felt so bad that I

had so insensitively handled the situation & never considered how they would feel about their make-believe baby.

6. BECAUSE I WAS BUSY WORKING ON SOME THING ELSE while they were playing, I hadn't listened in to their "parental conversation" enough to know that they were seriously pretending the dog was like a baby, obviously anticipating what it would be like to have their own new little baby in our house, because Mummy Maria was pregnant! Now I had a lot of making up to do, so we made the stuffed sodgy doggy a nice warm bed beside the radiator to dry overnight & the kids were finally content to go to sleep with the doggy's welfare now taken care of.

7. DAVIDITE, ALTHOUGH A VERY "LITTLE GIRL" PERSONALITY, never before showed much interest in playing sodgy with dollies until dear Maria's tummy began to



Beautiful Maria at four months pregnant!

"show" a baby was on the way! Davidite then pretended to be pregnant, stuffing anything that would bulge inside her clothing & even announcing a few times, "I think I'd better rest after we eat because I'm feeling so tired!" rubbing her stuffed tummy, ha!

8. DAD SAID IT WAS INSTINCTIVE IN LITTLE GIRLS TO PLAY NIPPI. A, "You can sure tell a baby's on the way when little sisters start to play sodgy with their dollies--it shows they really want to help with the new baby, & you can teach a child a lot about baby-care just with their dollies!"



Davidite regularly fed her imaginary "Baby Tachi" in her own future chair!



"Oh! Yours is even bigger than mine!"