

& dash--he's off! He likes to climb over little brick walls, jump down from high places, climb trees, kick the ball as hard as he can, etc. He has always been very independent about not wanting to hold hands while climbing on things or even walking down the street, but we do enforce holding hands when out, for safety reasons. He likes to try "circus stunts" on almost anything climbable, hanging, etc. never in too daring or dangerous a way, but just in a sort of independent & experimental way, seeing how it's a new thing!

30. ALFRED HAD A BURDEN FOR "GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS" in our new home, but got a big thorn stuck right at the base of his thumb on one hand which festered & swelled & began to cause him lots of trouble. We gathered together to pray for him that the thorn would come out, & after prayer Dito sweetly encouraged him by saying, "You know, I've had problems too & the Lord has always healed me". He recalled his experience with the Whooping Cough & the burn on his face & even a little scratch he had had on his hand earlier that bothered him a lot. It was really cute how both kids were worrying Alfred not to be afraid or worried! Dad did suggest after seeing the thorn deeply lodged in the skin that Alf visit the free clinic to have it taken out! Lesson: Do gardening & other manual labour wearing gloves!

31. ALONG WITH SETTING UP A BRAND NEW HOUSE INSIDE, WE USUALLY HAVE TO DO A BIT OF FIXING OUTSIDE THE HOUSE TOO, & try to make a nice children's play area. We try to make some kind of sandbox or sandplay area in every yard since it's such a simple thing to fix up & also quite a clean & edifying plaything. By simply boarding two planks in a square frame alongside a cemented curb area in our back yard we were able to section off a nice little area for the sandbox, partially shaded so that the children at the daily 12:00 noon playtime could have sun or shade, whichever they preferred. Sand is also kept quite clean by the wind, sun & rain so is never very dirty for the children to play with even if they add water & make mud pies--provided there are no cats in your neighbourhood! Sorry to say, there were lots around here, so we had to cover the sandbox with screening nailed to a log that we could roll back when the children began to play & then cover the sandbox when they were done to

keep out those nasty cats!

32. AND AS EMBARRASSING AS IT IS, I SUSPOSE I SHOULD SHARE WITH YOU A LESSON WE LEARNED ABOUT "PROVISIONING" OUR SAND. Well, the boys had been so busy they hadn't been able to obtain some nice, clean sand for us. We usually in other houses have gathered it from an isolated beach area or simply provisioned it with the children from a construction sight, asking the workmen for several buckets full. Well, there was a nice huge, big pile of beautiful clean sand just down the block from us at an apartment building site. However, we never were able to find the workmen there during work hours & ask them for our sand as usual. I had the big idea that because they had so much sand, hills & hills piled full in their yard, that perhaps we could just take two mop buckets down there one evening & at least gather a bit to begin our sandpile project! It was already built & just waiting for that nice clean sand only a little ways down the street...

33. SO OFF WE WENT, DORA, DAVID, DAVIDA & MYSELF, ALONG WITH LITTLE TECHI IN THE STROLLER TO "PROVISION" OUR SAND. On the way there I prayed aloud, "Lord, if it's not Your will for us to take this sand, then please just stop us in some way, but please, just don't let us get in trouble!" We quickly loaded our buckets & then because they were so heavy to carry, we parked them by the side of the street & continued our walk through the neighbourhood. We were gone for quite a long while & on our way back, we stopped to discover our buckets, shovels & sand were all gone! We began to walk home feeling quite convicted about the whole incident, when a motorbike drove up right behind us & slowed down, & my heart began skipping beats as I was thinking, "Oh my Lord, it might be the police!" but it wasn't, IT! We hurried back home as quickly as possible & I shared the lesson with everyone that it definitely wasn't the Lord's will & He stopped us by not providing what we thought might have been a "need". "Borrowing without asking is stealing," Daddy has told us before. So we were really sorry & even told the children we were sorry for even attempting such an idea! The Lord stopped us from getting our sand & without getting caught just as we had prayed, but what a gracious, merciful way of teaching us a lesson. Ty!

34. DAD & MARIA ONE EVENING AT DINNER PRESENTED TO DAVID, A NEW ELECTRONIC

PULLING TOY CALLED "SPEAK'N SPELL" made by Ixos Instruments. Daddy was really thrilled with the possibility of having a new Spelling Revolution within the family, a way to learn spelling in a game-like fashion, & had so much fun playing with it himself he worked on it with David far into the night. Ha! In fact, everyone took a turn at the "Speak'N Spell" which is programmed with a computer's voice, not a man's voice, but a very clear human-sounding voice, that after challenging you to spell a certain word in a series will "catch" you with the exact wrong punch of a letter to chose in a spelling sequence with "You're wrong!" or "Wrong, try again!" It even answers back "I won't!"

35. WE ENJOYED PLAYING WITH "SPEAK'N SPELL" QUITE A BIT AT FIRST but David ended up being a little aggravated that the machine was challenging him so much & would shout out it was right over David's attempt to Spell a word. It is a very good spelling toy for children perhaps age 6 & over, but 4 1/2 year old David was offended as soon as he was told "wrong" & would quickly change channels & go on to another game, avoiding the fact that the toy was winning! Maybe you'd like to try it!

MEET PETTIE & JACKIE!

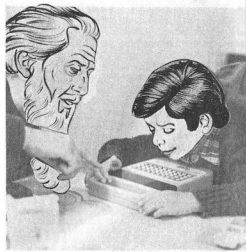
36. NOTE FROM DAVID TO MOMMY & DADDY ON 4 APRIL 1979:

*Dear Mommy & Daddy,*

*I want a cat. Do you think that's a good idea? A kitten, because I looked in this book. I learned how to give the cat food. If we don't want mice in the house*



Dad & Jewel take a turn!



Dad explains the spelling rules to Dito!



Watch this! I can spell if you tell me what to do!