

Grade 1 Week 19

Me first!

A first grader wants to be first in everything. Therefore, younger siblings who require care and attention often threaten the child's feeling of "firstness."

Your child may appear at times to be consumed by "Me first!" For example, her whole day may be spoiled if a younger sibling gets to the breakfast table before she does. And she can also be most jealous of the very sibling of whom she is most proud.

She is also jealous of any attention or present given a younger sibling by a guest, but is reassured of her position with some simple attention—an "I love you" smile or an arm around the shoulder. The lecture approach ("You mustn't be jealous, that's not nice!") only aggravates the situation. At this stage when her intense awareness exceeds her ability to manage self and events, she is terribly vulnerable. If her needs are met now, she can more easily discard her egocentric demands later.

Take heart. At least she gets along fairly well with older siblings—as long as they don't treat her "like a little kid!"

More about TV

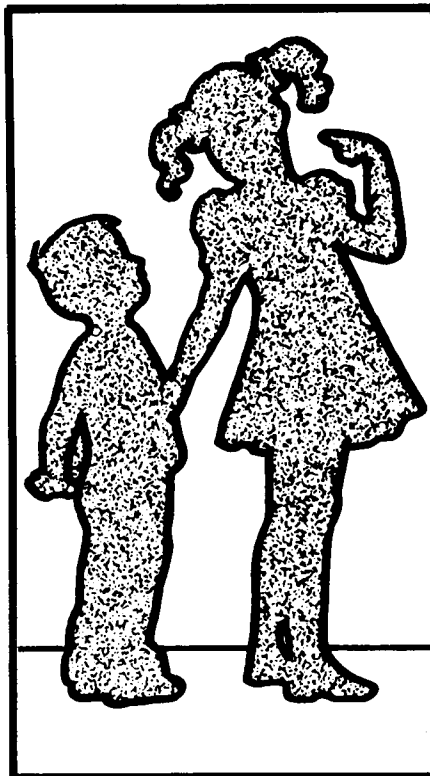
While television may help increase children's vocabularies and supply them with facts, it seems to have a dampening effect on creativity.

Why? The passive nature of television viewing is the important factor, especially if television becomes a substitute for socializing with other children or adults. Get the child involved in the real world, interacting with real people and real places—and most important, in **doing**.

Some alarming statistics:

- The average American child devotes more time to TV before entering first grade than she spends in school during the first six grades.
- By the time a student is 18, she will have spent nearly two years in front of a television.

Families can engage in a variety of real activities in their home. There's lots to share, work, and also play.



Warning: strangers

Now is a good time to remind your child again about not talking to strangers or accepting rides or candy from them. First graders have to be reminded often because of their vascillating, impetuous nature. Besides, even if she rides the school-bus, her range in neighborhood play has probably increased from next door to this block or perhaps even further. The greater the range, the greater the likelihood she will encounter strangers.

*"Children have more need of models than of critics."
—Joseph Joubert—*