

### Play and companionship

Spring brings lots of outside play in yards and on sidewalks. A second grader does not demand constant companionship now, even though playmates are readily available.

Your child may at times have a glorious, silly time with friends. At other times, she prefers solitary play: bouncing a ball, listening over and over to the same record, making lists. She likes to plan (and not forget) what she must do. "Must-do's" are also "want-to's."

Some children play better at home, some better away from home. Indoor play is often over-stimulating. In her own home, she might walk out on her friends, go to her room and read a book on her bed, or listen to a record.

If scuffling breaks out, she will not fight. The "doers" will leave the scene: the "talkers" may hide their fearfulness behind "big talk."

### Escape to bed

Your child's bed is a haven to her. Her bed has a calming effect when she is feeling anxious or jittery.

Some children sing in bed, some talk to themselves. Other are quiet, listening to familiar house sounds. All are relaxing.

If she must share a room, plan at least that she can have her own bed. A small one will do—any kind—just so it's all her own.

### Crying and emotion

A second grader cries when physically hurt—or when frustrated. If some gadget doesn't work, or if something she has been working on becomes damaged, she cries out of frustration.

She also cries if she thinks people don't like her, and now she is constantly evaluating how well someone likes her.

Don't assume that these tears or the emotion will be a characteristic of your child's future personality. The show of tears is the result of the extreme sensitivity of being herself.

A few loving pats from you will assure her that she has not lost your respect, but too much of a fuss from you may teach her how to use tears as a "tool."

### Gaining control

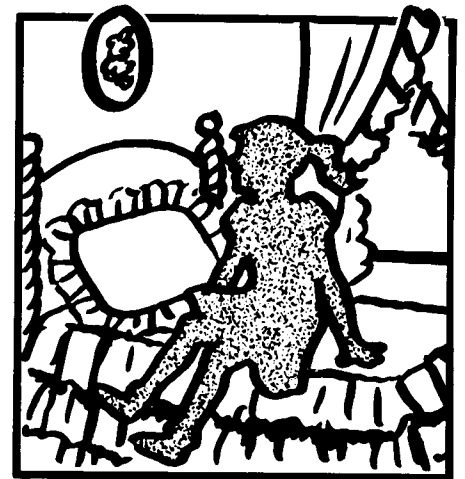
This need for a place of her own is an attempt to control her world so she can depend on herself—on herself, not on her world!

Last year she was thrust into new situations—mainly school. She took in much more than she had the maturity to handle.

This year she wants to "get at it," understand it, and master it. If she can just get control of some of the constants, then she can attack the variables.

So she wants her own place at the table, in the car. She wants her own bed, her own room. These places in the physical world are easier to achieve than another place she wants—her place in the social world.

Take heart! Next year will be better.



*"There is no great achievement that is not the result of patient working and waiting."*

*—J. G. Holland—*