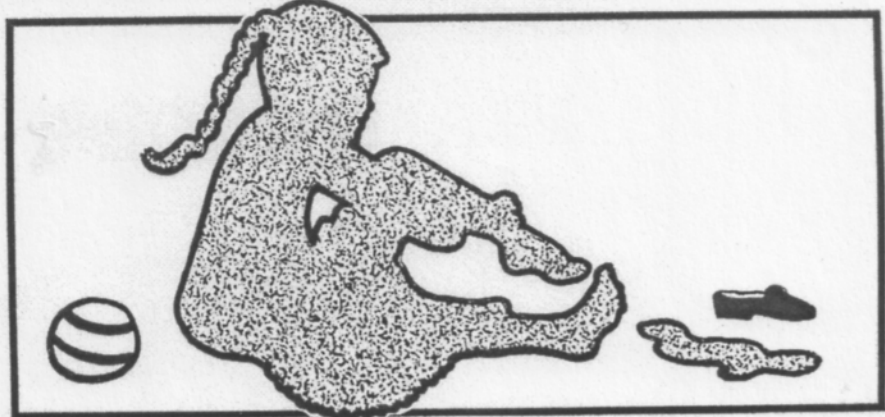


Grade 1 September Part 3

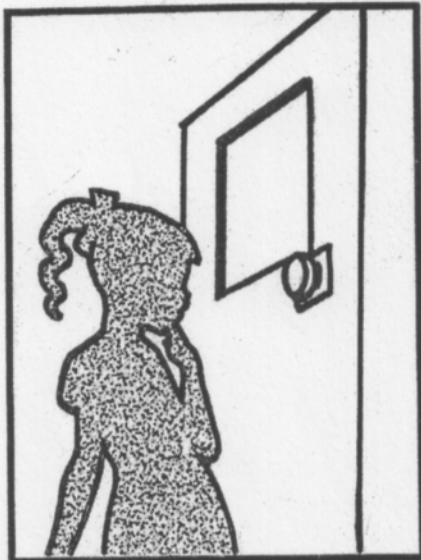
Unexplained fears

Don't be surprised if your child refuses to go to school after a week or two. She doesn't necessarily dislike school. Some experience unpleasant to her, such as being asked to count before the class or to pass out the milk, may be the cause. Send her on to school. Plan a special treat for afterward.



Morning dawdling

First graders usually need 11 hours of sleep to avoid fatigue and strain. When she wakes, she usually goes to the bathroom and then begins to play. This playing causes problems. She must dress, have breakfast and be ready for the bus or carpool if all is to go well. It helps if her clothes are already laid out—singly, not touching, so she can see every piece she will use. She will gradually begin to shift her playing habit to a dressing habit and will be able to get herself dressed before breakfast.



Why won't she talk?

A first grader doesn't talk much about her school experiences at home. If she does, she often tells of "bad" things other children have done or boasts beyond reality of her own accomplishments. The daring classmate who misbehaves most is sure to be reported on in great detail. This "tattling" and enlarging on the truth will stop when she is more at home at school.

Fast and sloppy

Your youngster may bring home papers she has colored, cut, or pasted that are alarmingly messy. In speedy and joyous abandon, she wants to do everything, and so finishes little. She is also easily distracted and often shifts her eyes to watch another's activity, while her own hand continues to move.



"To me, raising kids is just about the most exciting, maddening, rewarding, exhausting, puzzling, and satisfying occupation there is. There's no foolproof system, because all kids are different. But there's no area in the world where loving common sense and a touch of humor pay such big dividends."

—Art Linkletter—