

# SEPTEMBER

## Kiddie Prep School News

### Choice Opportunities

Parents can reduce the stress of the terrible twos by giving their children access to an acceptable level of control. Though we wouldn't want to offer the choice of whether or not to take a bath, we might offer the choice of reading a book now and then taking a bath, or taking a bath now and then a book. As long as we are willing to offer legitimate, authentic choices and then live with their decision, a child's need for power is satisfied in an acceptable manner for the moment.

God gives us, His children, free will, so it's OK to pass His generosity on to toddlers in an age-appropriate way. Of course, kids should not be offered a non-choice. This is when something is phrased as an option, but the adult has already decided. For example, "Do you want to take a nap?" but what they mean is, "You are going to take a nap." This is a non-choice.

Instead, parents should offer two options to a toddler. More choices can be overs whelming at this age. *Would you like to wear red or yellow socks today? Would you like cereal or toast for breakfast? Which of these two toys do you want to take with you in the car?* There are hundreds of opportunities in daily living that can be offered to toddlers. WE simply need to take advantage of them.

When parents offer choices, children learn that there are consequences to their choice. A consequence doesn't have to mean something bad. It merely means that there is a relationship between choices and results. Children gain this knowledge when the adult does not allow them to change their minds after a choice has been made.

This aligns with God's example to us too. We live with the consequences of our choices. Sometimes we have to come to Him for loving reassurance when we make unwise choices, but His arms are always open to us, as your arms should be to your toddler in the midst of your child's decisions. So once decisions have been made, children need to learn to live with their choices.

When we offer 2 year olds the opportunity to choose, we satisfy the child's developmental need to become a more independent individual. By empowering children in this way, parents actually prepare their kids for future choices that have a greater impact when they're older. And we just might turn the year of the terrible twos into the not so terrible twos.

*Borrowed and Adapted from Focus on the Family*

### Take Note!!!

- If you have not received a welcome email from KidReports—please contact Mrs. Carrie at [chilty@gpnaz.org](mailto:chilty@gpnaz.org) so she can make sure you get all updates and information from your Child's teacher with KidReports!!!
- September 5th: Kiddie Prep School 50th Birthday Bash
- September 18 & 19th: Picture



### Prayer Requests

Have a prayer need? We'd love to be praying for you!

Stop by the office and share your prayer request with us or email Mrs. Carrie at [chilty@gpnaz.org](mailto:chilty@gpnaz.org)—let us know if you would also like us to share it in the Newsletter for others to be praying for as well.

*"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." Matthew 18:20*