

Those Amazing Kids!

Every parent loves a chance to brag about his or her child.

From the time a newborn gets his very first test score in the delivery room, even the most sophisticated parent is impressed by every little burp, coo and messy diaper the kid makes. Grandparents, willing or unwilling, receive daily reports on what and how much little Junior ate today, how much he cried, what toys he played with, what his new tricks are, etc. Though it may sound silly, it's only natural to want to brag about our kids, whom we see as a tiny versions of ourselves.

Celina Nicole Fortez's mother Sarah, says that Celina, the youngest of the Laico clan at three months old, is quite a loud screamer and she occasionally startles people when she burps - as loud as a teenager!

Eight month old **Aiyan Laico**, daughter of Jondi and Mayleen, sometimes laughs so hard she topples over backwards. "*Kahit kinakarga*". She has also just learned to roll over, but once she gets started, she can't stop and then gets upset. "*Ang cute at ang taba niya.*" Her brother **Kuykuy**, four-and-a-half years, having lived much of his life in New York and visiting Tita Mitos and Tito Randy during the holidays, thinks that they are Daddy's parents. "*Ngayon pa lang niya nakukuha ang concept of grandparents because of Mayleen's parents being around all the time.*"

Baby **Timmy Laico**, six months old, has a talent for drinking a four

ounce bottle in less than three minutes, and a less desirable talent for crying loud enough to wake up his old dad, Popoy. His older sister **Leslie**, has a talent for keeping quiet around strangers, for up to four hours. When she's at home, though, she likes to sing and dance. The eldest of Popoy's kids, **Jason**, can read short storybooks and enjoys playing with his CD-ROM collection on the computer. He is also a good dancer: Jamaican is in his repertoire.

Aisa says that ten-month-old daughter **Kathleen** follows her older sister **Isabelle** everywhere by crawling no slower than 75 mph. She waves goodbye as if she were dancing "*Arimunding*" with her hands. Isabelle, two-and-a-half years, has memorized almost all of "*Barney and Friends*" dance and action songs and most of the dialogue in "*Barney's Great Adventure.*" She watches six hours of "*Blues Clues*" on tape almost every day with playmate, cousin Andre.

At one year old, **Karim Ullah**, child of Marnie and Salman, thinks his stroller is a chariot. He recently surprised his parents when he appeared at the top of the stairs with no means of visible support. Brother **Rahim**, three-and-a-half years, is so bursting with energy that his parents were forced to attend a class entitled "Raising Your Spirited Child."

Andre Silva, a.k.a. Dennis the Menace, slides down the staircase headfirst, "like a human snowboard" at 55 mph. He can also bike fast enough to spin 180-degree turns on his tricycle.

Andrew Elizaga's four year-old son **Joel** has written and illustrated so many books this year that his parents have taken to cutting the construction paper he uses for the pages in half to save money. The books feature skeletons and pirates and there's almost always a "good guy skeleton" who wears a feather in his helmet to vanquish the bad guys and save the treasure. One year-old **Phoebe** refuses to wear her practical shoes anymore, preferring the shiny, black patent ones and won't get off the dressing table in the morning without her heart necklace.

Teresa Damocles says, "Our two kids are growing and growing." **Corey**, six years, recently took up ice skating and is a hockey star wannabe. He also enjoys reading, rollerblading, playing his Nintendo Playstation, and loves jigsaw puzzles. **Charlotte**, just three years, learned how to ride a bike with training wheels this summer and has a new passion for Barbie dolls and Teletubbies. (Don't miss that hint, Kris Kringle!)

Cristina Ford thinks that her son, **Eamon**, seven years, might have been a cartographer in a previous life because he loves to draw maps. He also loves drawing anatomical diagrams, so he might also have had the name Gray in another life. Isabel, four-and-a-half years, nicknamed **Isa**, memorizes whole songs which inspire her. Her pre-school teacher, upon hearing her sing a song from Ariel's Favorites, wanted her to sing a solo at their Thanksgiving Presentation, but Isa got tired of the whole tape by then.