

"If a child is to keep alive
his inborn sense of wonder . . .
he needs the companionship
of at least one adult who can
share it, rediscovering with him
the joy, excitement, and
mystery of the world we live in."

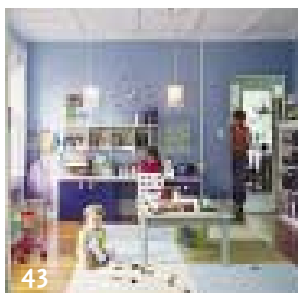
—RACHEL CARSON,
The Sense of Wonder

- 76 **What Your Newborn Knows at Birth**
by Kevin Markey At birth a baby has some 100 billion brain cells—more than she will ever have again. Here's what all that horsepower is used for.
- 84 **Everybody Wins!**
by Gail Greiner We've found three backyard games that guarantee loads of laughs—without any tears.
- 88 **Dalai Mama**
by Catherine Newman One mom strives to get her mind off the to-do list and into the here and now of raising her kids.
- 95 **Time Will Tell**
by Lynne Bertrand You can't touch it. You can't taste it. Yet somehow children grasp—quirkily, amazingly—the many concepts of time.
- 100 **Tell Me Our Story**
by Phil Catalfo Next time your kids ask for a tale, don't reach for a book. Instead, pass along a little family history.
- 107 **One Banana, Two Banana . . .**
by Shoshana Marchand Four games that can turn a simple trip to the grocery store into an adventure in math.
- 110 **A Different Kind of Normal**
by Charlotte Meryman Life with Jimmy poses unique trials—and triumphs—for the Foard family. Part 1 of our series.
- 116 **Lessons in Kindness**
by Sandra Tsing Loh Who knows better how to fan the flames of compassion than our children's teachers? We visit one preschool to uncover some trade secrets.

LIVE

43 Home Front

One family converts their formal dining room (useless) into a cozy, kid-friendly playroom (decidedly useful!).



43

125 Pick of the Season

When your kids grow and cook their own snow peas, they just might forget they're eating a vegetable.



125

128 What's for Dinner

Ann Hodgman on why your kids won't eat a cotton-pickin' thing—and why it doesn't matter. Plus, two recipes they may find ingestible.



128

139 Going Places

First-time parents get some real-life lessons about traveling with a toddler.

143 The Great Outdoors

A nature-loving mom reveals her secrets for keeping her kids happy out on the trail. Also: cool kid hiking gear.



143



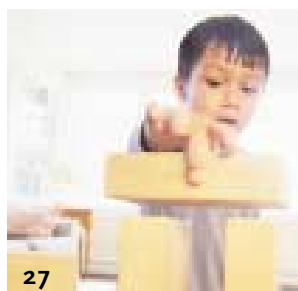
53



152



7



27

LOVE

53 The Long View

Novelist Jacquelyn Mitchard knows a thing or two about plot twists. Here, she tells the amazing story of how her big (very big) family came to be.

72.5 Instant Journal

Capturing memories doesn't get any easier than this.

152 Time Capsule

Alcy and Bunny: Love means never having to say you're stuffed.

TEACH

7 Teach Your Child to . . .

take advantage of the pleasures of spring.

9 Inspirations

According to polar explorer Ann Bancroft, it was her parents' own fearlessness that gave her such an adventurous spirit.

27 Growing Up

Why peekaboo always gets a laugh, ways to coax out a shy child, how fetal feet develop, and more.

147 Reading Time

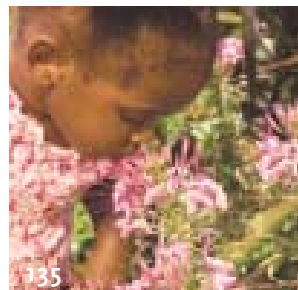
Not all storybooks are created equal, says our reviewer. Here are some of Daniel Pinkwater's faves.



49



63



135



23

ON THE COVER:

- 76 What Babies Know at Birth
- 116 Raising a Kind Child
- 43 One Mom's Ingenious Playroom
- 100 Why Family Stories Matter
- 95 How Kids Learn to Tell Time

Teach Your Child to . . .

- 107 enjoy math
- 49 care for a pet
- 147 love books
- 143 take a hike
- 57 open up



Photograph of Sasa, 3½,
by Shelly Strazis

PLAY

- 49 **First Pets**
It's not from Guinea and it's not a pig—but it sure is cute.
- 63 **Life with Little Ones**
When you should buy organic, how to preserve locks from that first haircut, and this spring's art project—a simple-to-make chick that really clucks.
- 133 **Obsessions**
Meet Freddy, future construction foreman.

- 135 **Field Trips**
Turn a trip to the garden center into a pan-sensory expedition.

SHARE

- 23 **Family Traditions**
Sometimes it takes having kids of your own before you truly appreciate your mother.
- 57 **Real Families, Real Solutions**
How to elicit more than one-word answers from your child.

AND THERE'S ALWAYS

- 16 **About Us**
- 150 **Resources and Credits**

We want to hear from you: For a new section of *Wondertime* in which parents swap their experiences, techniques, and general tricks of the parenting trade, we would like to hear your answers to the following question: **What are your favorite ways to teach your child basic manners—please and thank you, friendly greetings, acceptable interruption techniques (Excuse me!), and other everyday niceties?** Send your answers to letters@wondertime.com. Answers may be edited for length and clarity. If your letter, with attribution, runs in the magazine, we'll pay you \$75.



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