

D51 Gifted Education Newsletter

March 2024

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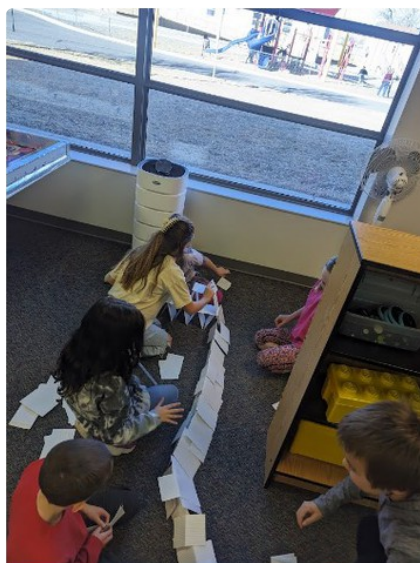
School GT Highlight

Submitted by Meredith Thornhill, GT teacher at Monument Ridge and Rim Rock Elementary

Fourth-grade gifted and talented students at Monument Ridge and Rim Rock Elementary schools are learning all about leadership. Students are learning about the different styles of leadership and discovering which way they prefer to lead.

So far they have learned about structural, human resource, and political leadership styles. They have had some difficult challenges to complete. During an exercise where teams had to build the largest 3D structure, they were challenged to complete this first in a small group and then all the groups had to connect their creations. This had to be completed without talking or using hand gestures to try and convey their message. It was quickly realized that this was not as easy as they first thought.

Even without the ability to communicate, natural leaders stepped up to model their thoughts and try to get others to copy their ideas to build a structure. They were all proud of their efforts and also worked as a team to collect and stack the cards to be reused for other activities.



Student Spotlight

Submitted by Johnathan Bonner, *GT Teacher at Fruita Middle School*

Welcome Back, Bonner - Podcast

Welcome back to group identity, competition, and using difficulties as motivation.

Jack, Troy, and Tyler share about MathCon and their BUSY schedules.

Mr. Carroll fills us in on the exciting opportunities for Fruita Middle's curious sponges.

First page reading of *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton



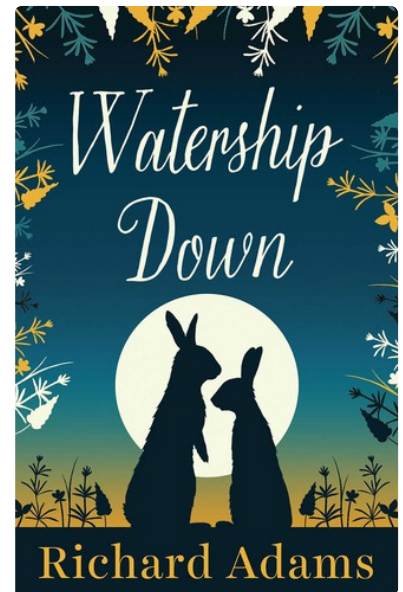
Student Recommendation

Submitted by Kacey Daugherty, GT teacher at Taylor Elementary

Kaylee, 5th grader at Taylor Elementary

I highly recommend reading *Watership Down* by Richard George Adams. This book consists of a group of rabbits that left their warren because of a vision one of the rabbits saw. This group of rabbits have faced many dangers and go through many different hardships. It is about the rabbit people and how they live their life.

This is an amazing book. I enjoyed this book and I bet you will too. This book is a 9th grade novel study. I highly recommend reading this book.



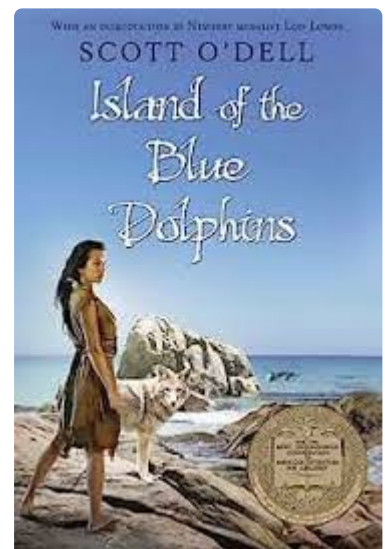
Student Work

Submitted by Tawnya Bangert, GT teacher at Loma Elementary

Fifth grade students at Loma Elementary read a passage from *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, a children's novel by Scott O'Dell, which tells the story of a girl named Karana, who is stranded alone for years on an island off the California coast. It is based on the true story of Juana Maria, a Nicoleño Native American left alone for 18 years on San Nicolas Island during the 19th century.

The novel opens to Karana and her six year old brother, Ramo, seeing a ship approach their island.

Students were asked to think about how this passage would be



view that described what he was doing and thinking as the ship came closer to the island.

Written by Adalyn Teneyck

Me and my sister were sent out by our mom to pick roots for the next coming meal. We were both picking roots which is incredibly boring when I looked up to see how many roots my sister had picked. It wasn't a competition of who picked more but I still liked to count how many she picked and how many I picked. She had already picked five, when I looked back into my basket I had only picked one but out of the corner of my eye I spotted something skimming across the ocean.

I stood up and tried racking my brain of what it could be but I could not come up with a clear answer. I was now hopping from one foot to the other looking out at the big piece of mass floating across the crisp clear bay. I couldn't help but stare at it like an eager eyed puppy.

My mind was still lost at sea when my sister suddenly said, "While you gaze at the sea, I dig roots. And it is I who will eat them and you who will not."

I knew mom and pop were hungry and so was I, so I picked up a root and was about to drop it in the basket but then I just couldn't help but describe the great big thing swimming across the ocean like a humpback whale, to my sister who was oblivious of its coming.

Suddenly it crossed my mind that it wasn't just a piece of debris. "A canoe!" I cried. "A great one, bigger than all our canoes together. And red!"

It was one of the largest canoes I've ever seen, probably the biggest canoe in the whole world! I had to get a closer look. I tossed the root I was holding in the air and took off running. The dry brush scraping against my legs with its sharp claws.

"A canoe! A canoe!" I shouted my excitement was bursting out of me. I could tell I was about to hit my peak. It felt like I was going to explode like a volcano!

But when I looked back at my sister she was just sitting there crouched down on the dirt mumbling under her breath "It is a ship there on the sea, not a giant canoe."

A ship! I've heard it come up in the elders' conversation but I've never seen one. How would my sister know if this was a canoe or not? I sure had no clue. I ran down to the shore and stared out at the canoe. The white sand squishing between my toes as the ship sailed around the wide kelp bed that encloses our island and between the two rocks that stood tall and proud guarding the Coral Cove like mighty soldiers ready for war.

Written by Caden Solbach

I was watching as a big red thing came toward the island, it was almost the size of the big rock on the edge of the island. I danced from foot to foot in so much excitement. The weird thing skimming across the water I'd never seen before. I had stopped gathering those dirt-covered stubby roots to watch.

"While you gaze at the sea," My sister said, "I dig roots. And it is I who will eat them and you who will not."

I then tried to hide my excitement and went back to work. I picked up another short and thin root, but I just couldn't stop my excitement and it broke out like a giant tiger from a cage. I continued staring at the red thing flowing across the water as my mouth fell open. After a bit more gazing I came to a realization.

"A canoe!" I shouted. "A great one, bigger than all of our canoes together. And red!"

I threw the root in the air and raced through the bushes to see the giant canoe. I ran to the village and told everyone, they thought it wouldn't be friendly so they told me to stay behind and let the men take care of it, but i didn't care.

I raced to the seaside and hid in the bushes next to the path that led to the shore where I could see the canoe stop and send a little canoe out. Looking at the canoes, it looked like a baby tiger next to its mother. The little canoe had six men rowing. While the men from our village prepared for the worst. Some of them hid to spring out after they landed but the rest stayed ready at the shore.. My sister didn't know how much she was missing out.



Scholarship Application

*Scholarships are available to all D51
students to assist with tuition for
enrichment programs.*

2023-2024 Scholarship Application.pdf

[Download](#)

88.7 KB

Download

76.8 KB

Facebook

Westslope CO Gifted & Talented

This group is to support Westernslope Parents of Gifted & Talented and 2E kids.

We share hope, empowerment, ideas, opportunities, and overall support each other.



Upcoming
**COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

Spring Break Day Camp: March 18

👤 Rachel Egelston

📅 Monday, March 18, 2024

🕒 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

📍 Red Door Studio at The Art Center

👶 Children, Ages 5 year-13 year

\$43.00 ~~\$38.00~~ (members)

[Add to Cart](#)

Description

Experience an entire day of in-depth art exploration! Projects range from drawing, painting, and sculpture to process art, and more, through hands-on learning. Each day has open-ended creative exploration with art instruction. Children enjoy learning, exploring, observing, and creating in an inclusive and inspiring environment.

Students are asked to bring a lunch, snack, and water bottle.

Ages 5-13 welcome!

All materials provided.

Monday, Mar. 18: Rain sticks, Huichol Nierikas string painting, Picasso portraits, alter images

Sponsored by The Art Center Guild



All youth classes address the Colorado Model Content Standard for visual arts. Content standards used in class will be provided upon request. Students and parents are assured of a unique classroom and project experience whether it be in fall, holiday, winter, spring, or summer sessions. All instructors are paid professionals with teaching and art backgrounds.

17th ANNUAL



Bank of Colorado 2025 CALENDAR CONTEST

SHOW US YOUR ARTISTIC TALENT & YOU MAY SEE
**YOUR ARTWORK PUBLISHED IN
OUR COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

COVER WINNER \$500

& YOUR ARTWORK WILL BE ON THE CALENDAR COVER

1ST PLACE WINNERS FROM EACH GRADE LEVEL \$300
& YOUR ARTWORK WILL BE FEATURED ON A PAGE OF THE CALENDAR

2ND PLACE WINNERS FROM EACH GRADE LEVEL \$200

3RD PLACE WINNERS FROM EACH GRADE LEVEL \$100

Submit your artwork in person at any Bank of Colorado in Grand Junction.

Open to ALL students in grades K-12 at Mesa County Valley School District 51 Schools
as well as private and home school students.

MASTERPIECES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024

All monetary awards will be deposited in a Bank of Colorado Savings account. All entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form.
Need not be a Bank of Colorado customer to enter or win.



MARIANA CHAVEZ-CORDOVA
9th GRADE – GOAL HIGH SCHOOL

A RECEPTION WILL BE HELD

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 24, 2024

AT 6:00 P.M.

BANK OF COLORADO

200 GRAND AVENUE

**TO ANNOUNCE THE WINNERS
AND AWARD PRIZES.**

- Top 3 Finalists from each grade level will be notified the week of April 1st, 2024.
- The final selection of student artwork will be displayed on the Bank of Colorado Facebook page and within Grand Junction branch lobbies from April 8th - April 21st, 2024.

GRAND JUNCTION 200 Grand Ave. • 2903 Patterson Rd. • 2452 Patterson Rd. Ste.100 • 970.245.1600

FMHS VOLLEYBALL



FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL PREP CAMP

June 17-20, 2024

Open to **incoming Freshman girls and boys** from any school, who want to explore or refine volleyball skills.
9am-2pm

Wildkitten Kids Volleyball Camp

Grades: 3-8

June 10-13, 2024

Age divisions for athletes entering **grades 3-8, boys and girls from any school** are all welcome. Be ready for 4 days of VB fun.
3-5th grade: 8:30-10:30
6-7th grade: 11:00-1:00
8th grade: 1:30-3:30

Come learn new skills, experience game play, have fun, meet new friends, meet some of the high school players, get a t-shirt, and be part of our amazing FMHS volleyball family.



www.fmvolleyball.com

MINI BULLDOG SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS



Volleyball and Basketball Camps

Instruction in the fundamental skills of each sport

Track Camp

Age-appropriate speed, agility, and coordination training



Scan the QR code or [click here](#)
to sign up for one, two, or all three
sports for an all-day camp experience!

DATES:

May 28, 29, 30
(Tuesday – Thursday)

WHO:

All boys and girls
entering K-8th grades

LOCATION:

Palisade High School

COST:

\$65 per sport

K-5th Grade Boys & Girls

8:30am-10:00am	Basketball Camp
10:30am-12:00pm	Track Camp
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch (provide own)
1:30pm-3:00pm	Volleyball Camp

6th-8th Grade Boys & Girls

10:30am-12:00pm	Basketball Camp
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch (provide own)
1:30pm-3:00pm	Track Camp
3:30pm-5:00pm	Volleyball Camp

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CAMPS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR HEAD COACHES

BOYS BASKETBALL
Cory Hitchcock
cory.hitchcock@d51schools.org
(970) 819-5845

TRACK
Jill Reetz
jill.reetz@d51schools.org
(970) 210-2540

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Don Bavor
don.bavor@d51schools.org
(970) 433-4797

VOLLEYBALL
Wendy MacAskill
palrocksvb@yahoo.com
(970) 216-6197



BUILDING FUTURE BULLDOGS



Mental Health FIRST AID
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

WHO SHOULD KNOW MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

- Teachers.
- School Staff.
- Coaches.
- Camp Counselors.
- Youth Group Leaders.
- Parents.
- Adults who Work with Youth.

WHY YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18.

10.2%

of youth will be diagnosed with a substance use disorder in their lifetime.

Source: Youth Mental Health First Aid**

1 in 5

teens and young adults lives with a mental health condition.

Source: National Alliance for Mental Illness*

50%

of all mental illnesses begin by age 14, and 75% by the mid-20s.

Source: Archives of General Psychiatry***

Sources

* National Alliance on Mental Illness. (n.d.). Kids. <https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults/Kids>

** Mental Health First Aid. (2020). *Mental Health First Aid USA* for adults assisting children and youth. National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

*** Kessler, R., Berglund, P., Demler, O., Jin, R., Merikangas, K.R., Walters, E.E. (2005, June). Lifetime prevalence and age-of-onset distributions of DSM-IV disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 62(6), 593-602. doi: 10.1001/archpsyc.62.6.593

REGISTER TODAY!

Delivery Format:

In-Person, 6.5 hours

Date and Time:

Choose one of the following dates: 3/8, 8/16, 10/11

Location:

Locations vary and available upon registration

Where to Register:

www.suicidepreventionmc.org

The course will teach you how to apply the MHFA Action Plan (ALGEE):

- **Assess** for risk of suicide or harm.
- **Listen** nonjudgmentally.
- **Give** reassurance and information.
- **Encourage** appropriate professional help.
- **Encourage** self-help and other support strategies.



Spring 2024 Challenge: March 4-May 3

Walk, Bike, or Roll to School + Win Prizes

- Download the Mobile App, log active trips to/from school
- Elementary & Middle School Fall Walk & Wheel Challenge
 - March 4 -May 3
 - Students can count up to 10 trips per week towards the contest
 - Parents can easily track multiple kids from same household
 - Use the same device throughout the contest to log trips
 - Log trips as you complete them, daily, or once per week
- Earn prizes for 3 levels
 - Level 1 (5 Trips) = Dino Sticker
 - Level 2 (10 Trips) = Bike Light or Reflective Arm Band
 - Level 3 (20 Trips) = Fanny Pack + Glow Bracelet

Prizes will be available beginning the last week of October, watch for pop-up prize pick up dates



[MesaCountySafeRoutes.com](https://www.MesaCountySafeRoutes.com)

Spring Season

Monument Little League

REGISTRATION OPEN!

TEE BALL \$120	COACH PITCH \$130	BEGINNER SOFTBALL \$130	ROOKIES \$140	MINORS \$165
MAJORS \$165	50/70 \$165	JR / SR \$165		

SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL

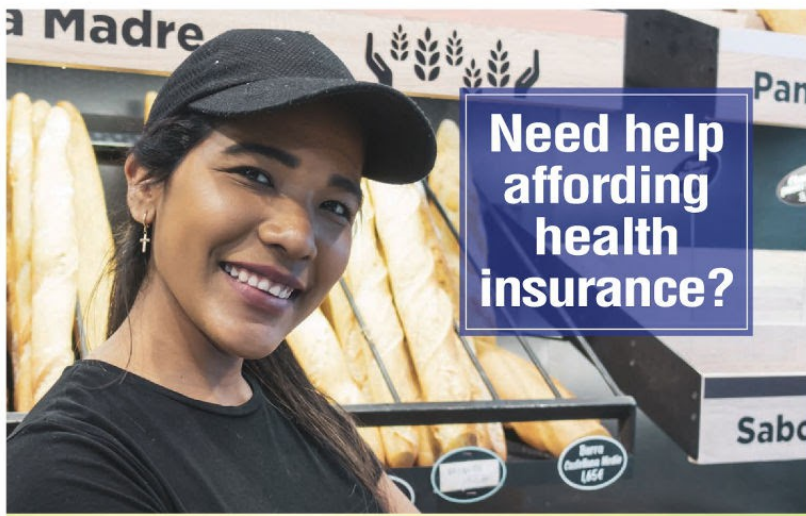
SIGN UP ONLINE TODAY!

MonumentLittleLeague.org

• **REGISTRATION CLOSING APRIL 1ST** •

568 25 1/2 Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81505

This event is not sponsored by or endorsed by District 51 and the District assumes no responsibility for the conduct or safety during the event. In consideration for the privilege to distribute this information/hold this event, the organization shall defend, indemnify and hold District 51 harmless from any and all claims, injuries, damages, losses or suits, including attorney fees, arising out of or in connection with this event, except for injuries and damages caused by the sole negligence of the district.



**Need help
affording
health
insurance?**

If your employer doesn't offer health insurance, or if you can't afford their coverage, we can help.

We help you apply for financial assistance to lower the monthly cost of health insurance

Get assistance navigating the online enrollment process, compare coverage options side-by-side, and learn if you qualify for a discount based on income - all in one day!

Monthly premiums starting from \$0 and copays from \$2

Our friendly staff make the application process fast and easy

Call (970) 244-0850 or visit hilltopshealthaccess.org

Hilltop's  **Health Access**
Local answers you can trust





Smokey Bear is within us all.

For wildfire prevention tips, visit SmokeyBear.com



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Tiger Elite camps 2024

TIGER ELITE CAMPS

START TRAINING

» **Middle School Lifting Camp**
5th grade-8th grade
January 16 - March 14
(18 Sessions Total)



Training Based on Safety & Ability

Proper lifting, increased flexibility, speed, and agility. The program is safe and designed for all ages and abilities.

Agility-Reaction-Footwork

Agility, footwork, and eye-hand coordination training everyday through a wide variety of drills

Physical Action

High activity level guaranteed to make you work and prepare you mentally and physically

18 SESSIONS

\$8 PER SESSION

AND A T-SHIRT

\$150

Daily schedule will be adjusted on Jan. 16 (SIGN UP DAY) the first day of camp, depending on number of sign-ups.



Register Now

Call: 970-361-4443

QUESTIONS?

Email: brgoff123@outlook.com

Parent Voices on SEL



Xiaohong Li, a parent of three children in Naperville, Illinois, shares how social and emotional learning (SEL) impacted her family.

"For us, social and emotional learning really started from home. **We helped our children label their emotions, and be aware of their emotions in different situations.** We'd say, 'Let's think about it. Let's think through this.' And then we can calmly talk. We can exchange our thoughts, how we made that decision, and why we agree or disagree. By doing that, we can see each other's perspectives.

Scan the QR code to hear more of Xiaohong Li story – and follow along on Instagram to learn more about SEL for students and families.



[instagram.com/caselorg](https://www.instagram.com/caselorg)

"After I realized how wonderful SEL is, I started a club with Chinese parents. Once we started practicing these skills at home, the children recognized them. They would get excited and say, 'Mom, you're doing stop, breathe, and count to 10!' And parents saw, 'Wow, this is really working.' **That's a very exciting moment, when children and parents come together with SEL.**

"I really think SEL is a foundation of human potential development. Think of a Lego. You only have a few types of Legos, but you can build anything you want to. With SEL, you only have five different components. **But you can build solutions for any problems, any challenges, or any dream you want to build.**"



Follow our new Instagram account for parents and caregivers seeking SEL content: [@caselorg](https://www.instagram.com/caselorg)

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CAGT Happenings

Conversations With CAGT Conversations With CAGT



1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at 5:00 pm MST on Facebook
Live

Conversations with CAGT provides timely, relevant topics by preeminent local, national, and international specialists in the field of gifted education! CWC programs premier on the **first and third Tuesdays of the month** at 5:00 pm MST on Facebook Live. [Check out past Conversations with CAGT programs on our website](#), where you may rewatch past videos anytime! *Conversations with CAGT* is an incredible opportunity to get expert advice on topics regarding giftedness for FREE with time to ask your questions. Questions from CAGT members get priority! Click the Facebook link below to access *Conversations with CAGT*.

Tuesday, March 5th: Lisa Rogers

"Developing Mathematical Thinking in Gifted Learners Through Routines"

Tuesday, March 19th: Kathryn Fishman-Weaver and Jill Clingan

"Teaching Women and Gender Studies in the Gifted Classroom"

Addressing the Instructional Needs of Gifted Multilingual Learners

Sponsored by Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education and Talent Development

Join this virtual presentation by Marci Voss, former Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented Board member, to learn how to structure instruction that provides gifted Multilingual Learners the opportunity to exhibit in-depth, complex thinking.

Cost: Free

March 9th at 11:00am (Eastern Standard Time)

[Click here for more information](#)

Gifted Students and Underachievement

Sponsored by CAGT Affiliate: JAGC

Join this virtual presentation to learn how to support students who are performing lower than their capabilities in school.

Cost: Free

March 14th from 6:00-7:30 pm

[Click here to RSVP](#); Google Meet Link will be sent out Wednesday, March 13th.

Congressional App Challenge for Middle and High School Students

Students design their own app for a chance to win the Congressional App Challenge. Each challenge is district-specific, based on Congressional Districts throughout the United States.

Cost: Free

Registration open until May 1st

[Click here for more information](#)

100 Books Before Graduation Challenge

Sponsored by Summit County Libraries

Teens in grades 6th-12th grade receive prizes for every 10 books read, up to 100 books.

Cost: Free

[Click here for more information](#)

Rocky Mountain PBS Kids



5 Activities To Help Kids Make Choices

We make dozens of decisions every day. As adults, making choices is something we do so often that we hardly even notice it. But it's a skill that takes time and practice to learn. Parents can help kids develop this skill by showing them how to think through the pros and cons of their choices.



[Donkey Hodie](#) helps Duck Duck make choices in the episode “Duck Duck Great Adventure.” When Duck Duck feels overwhelmed and not sure what to choose, Donkey Hodie reminds her to consider what’s good and bad for her about each choice. As part of her decision making process, Duck Duck says, “Time to look at my choices, Weigh each one I see, Think about what’s good and bad, Choose the one that’s right for me.”

Parents can support decision making skills in kids by teaching them to talk through their choices. Kids build independence and feel confident by making their own informed choices throughout the day when they have opportunities in low-pressure situations.

Try playful activities to encourage your child as they practice making decisions.

1. Play games that require critical thinking. Games like tic-tac-toe, checkers, and Connect 4 require planning and anticipating other players’ moves. When playing with your child, talk about your game strategy. For example, during tic-tac-toe, you could say something like, “Hmm. If I put one here, you can put your third over there. I’m going to go right here to block you instead.”

2. Use stories to talk about choices. Books are a great way to talk through different scenarios with

and why. For example, with a story like “Jack and the Beanstalk” you could say “Should Jack trade the cow for the magic beans? What do you think?” Watching shows together is another opportunity to talk about the choices different characters make. For example, as you watch “Duck Duck’s Great Adventure” together, pause when Duck Duck has to make a decision. You could ask, “What do you think Duck Duck is going to choose? Why does she make that choice?”

3. Play pretend. Kids love to play make-believe and create their own worlds. Tap into the power of imagination by joining in on the fun and asking questions. If your child is pretending to be a chef and you’re the customer, you can say you’re having trouble choosing between two options. Ask them which one they suggest and why.

4. Offer choices throughout the day. Give your child opportunities to practice making decisions by giving them options. Let them choose a bedtime story or pick out their own (weather-appropriate) clothes. I like to offer my kids choices at mealtimes. I might say, “For fruit today, you can have grapes or an apple. Which would you like?”

5. Create together. When coloring together or making a craft, ask your child for their opinion on what colors you should use or where to hang their artwork. Asking your child for their opinion shows them you trust their ability to make choices. This can help them learn to trust themselves, too.

Encouraging self-confidence in kids

As parents, it can be hard to step back and let kids make their own choices. I know I’m often quick to step in when I see my child struggling to decide. But, according to [Rebecca Weksner](#), a psychologist who works with children and families, [giving your child opportunities to work through hard things helps them develop self-confidence](#).

“It is in that [process of struggle](#) followed by reward that a person begins to feel a sense of control over their world,” Weksner said.

Support your child by talking through options, just like Donkey Hodie does with Bob Dog in the “Best Ball Fest” episode. When Bob Dog struggles to choose his favorite ball, Donkey Hodie helps by encouraging Bob Dog to consider what he likes and dislikes about each ball. After talking it through, Bob Dog finds the one he likes the most.

Though it can be tough to watch kids make mistakes, this is how they learn. As long as your child is safe, letting them make a less ideal choice now and then can teach them how to make better choices in the future. Instead of grabbing your child’s sunglasses as you walk out the door, you could say, “It’s sunny outside, would you like to bring your sunglasses?” If they choose not to, they might realize they would rather have them and choose to bring them next time.

Making good choices is a skill that takes practice. Parents can support their kids’ decision-making skills by encouraging them to make choices throughout the day.

Author:

Erin Heger is a freelance writer and mom of three living in the Midwest. Her reporting and essays on parenting and health have appeared in The Atlantic, Huffington Post and Business Insider. She loves connecting with other parents online and reading alone after the kids are in bed. Find her on Instagram @erin_heger.

D51 Gifted & Talented Department



*2768 Compass Drive, Suite 200
Grand Junction, CO 81506*

Bill Larsen - Interim D51 GT Director

Brandy Headlee - D51 GT Coach

Summer Allen - D51 GT Administrative Assistant

(970) 254-6903

Summer.Allen@D51Schools.org



D51 - Gifted and Talented

GT Department is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters