



Short Stops

What's fair?

"That's not fair!" If you hear your tween say this, take the opportunity to discuss what fair actually means. Say her brother gets to stay up late, but she can't because she has swim practice early in the morning. Point out that everyone has different needs, so what's fair for one may not be fair for another.

Thanking teachers

As the school year winds down, encourage your child to show appreciation for his teachers. He could make bookmarks and list favorite memories or topics he enjoyed in class. Or he might fill a jar with dry ingredients to bake cookies. Simply saying thank you in person or writing a heartfelt note means a lot, too.

A head start on next year

Get your middle grader excited about next year's electives by planning outings related to what she'll study. If she's taking woodworking, maybe your family could attend a workshop at a local home improvement store. Or look for a summer concert series if she signed up for band or chorus.

Worth quoting

"If you have good thoughts, they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely."

Roald Dahl

Just for fun

Q: What's blue and smells like red paint?

A: Blue paint.



Safely home alone

As your child gets older, there will be times when she's home by herself. Whether that's now or later, it's never too early to start talking about household safety. Here's how.

1. Make sure your tween knows not to answer the door unless she can see who's knocking—and it is someone you've agreed she can let in.
2. Show her where you keep the first-aid kit, and explain how to use what's inside.
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