

6 Things Kids Totally Notice Without Adults Realizing It

By: Kelsey Borresen

Kids are often more observant than many adults give them credit for. It's not just what we say to them directly that they're absorbing; it's how we talk about ourselves and others, what we say to others about them and how we behave, too. We asked experts what sorts of things children pick up on that adults don't always realize they're noticing. This list isn't designed to be judgmental; rather, it's a reminder that we can all bring a little more awareness to our day-to-day interactions.

1. How you feel about your partner, co-parent or their other caregivers.

You may think you're being subtle when you roll your eyes at your partner or shoot your father-in-law a dirty look.

"Kids notice these dynamics, so try your best to speak highly of the other parent and caregivers around your child — even if they're in another room," McCoy said. "They probably still can hear you." This is important regardless of your relationship with these people. Why? It helps the child feel safe, confident and cared for, more emotionally connected to their caregivers and less anxious, McCoy said. She offered a few examples of the kinds of things you'd want your child to overhear you saying about the other adults in your kid's life: "Wow, Mommy planned a fun adventure for us!" or "This dinner came out great. Daddy is a great chef!" or "Aww, this looks like such a great memory you had with grandma. It was so nice of her to take you there."

2. How you feel about your body.

Children are "astutely aware" of how adults talk about their own bodies and other people's bodies. And they can read our body language, too.

They observe the way you look at yourself in the mirror and can make inferences from that. They notice if you never wear a bathing suit at the pool, if you delete lots of pictures of yourself or avoid getting in front of the camera altogether, Miller said.

"Adults are constantly showing kids how to view their own bodies through their everyday actions," she said. "Think about it: No baby or toddler is embarrassed by their belly, their thighs or their height until they hear comments or witness someone else being insecure about it."

3. What you actually value.

Kids notice what you actually value based on what you say and do. This is sometimes different from what you say you value.

For example, you might tell your kid that sports are really about teamwork, learning new skills and having a good time with your friends. "But then when you pick them up after the game, your first question is, 'Who won?'" Markham told HuffPost.

You've probably told your child time and time again how important it is to be honest, "but then you have them fib about their age to get a cheaper entrance fee at the amusement park," she added.

Children learn values by observing your behavior and then drawing conclusions about what you believe is important, Markham said.

"Regardless of what you consciously teach them, your children will emerge from childhood with clear views on what their parents really value, and with a well-developed value system of their own," she added. "We need to articulate our values to ourselves and then our kids — not just once, but over and over, applying those values to the daily dilemmas our child faces."

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Please check
Procare updates
every day.
There is
important
information
there! Also,
make sure your
child always has
a change of
clothes and/or
diapers/pull-ups,
if necessary.
Thank You!

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Caterpillars/Buttercup Butterflies



For September, the Caterpillars are going to learn about the topic, "Exploring my world". Body Awareness, Responding to Caregiver, Exploring Through Senses, Developing Curiosity, and Displaying Interest.

The Buttercups goals for the month of September aim to deepen sensory exploration as children continue to explore the world around them, fostering curiosity and cognitive development. We will engage families in meaningful ways, ensuring that learning extends beyond the classroom. Cultural sensitivity will be at the heart of our approach, creating an inclusive environment where all cultural backgrounds are respected and integrated into the learning experience.

-Meme, Ms. Denisse & Ms. Yaxi

Pixie Butterflies

We are fully in the swing of our new school year! This month in Pixies, we will be exploring fun themes like nature, rainbows and how to move our bodies. We will also be introducing our study on the Alphabet! We can't wait to make fun memories every day! This month we will begin our library days- please keep an eye out for more info!

-Ms. Victoria & Ms. Yeizary



Elf Butterflies



Hello Elf Butterfly Families!

We have already completed three weeks of school! As your children get into their class routines, please keep communication open with the teachers and check your student's file daily. Fall season begins and we have a lot of funny activities with pumpkins. During this month, children are learning more about themselves and their families. They are going to create artistic family and self portraits.

— Ms. Joanne & Ms. KeAna

Julia Butterflies

Hello Julia Butterfly Families, this month we will finish learning about building relationships, establishing routines, all about me, and circle exploration. We will also start learning about letters d, e, and f, exploring patterns, the uses of a balance scale, and all about jazz music. We have had so much fun getting to know each other during the first month of school! Please return your house cut outs with pictures of family on it to be displayed in the classroom.



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CLOSED in observance of Labor Day—September 2nd
Ms. Jessyca's 1 Year Anniversary—September 5th
Ms. Gina's 1 Year Anniversary—September 12th
Mr. Kaliq's Birthday—September 14th
Ms. Yeizary's 1 Year Anniversary—September 18th
Ms. Yeizary's Birthday—September 23rd
Ms. Vanessa's 6 Year Anniversary—September 24th
Ms. Shirley's 22 Year Anniversary—September 25th

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4. Your self-compassion (or lack thereof).

"One thing I've noticed time and again is that while different kids have different temperaments, their ability to give and receive grace and compassion often mirrors the adults around them," Miller said.

If your child is beating themself up over a mistake at school, you might comfort your child by imploring that they not take it so hard. But if you have a tendency to handle setbacks in this manner, too, your child has taken note of that.

"Kids pick up on how adults handle mistakes, their self-talk, unrealistic expectations and perfectionistic tendencies," Miller said. "Many people who lack self-compassion or are hard on themselves inadvertently teach kids to be critical and harsh with themselves," she said. "Conversely, adults who are gentle with themselves, admit mistakes and move past them teach kids resilience and to use mistakes as learning opportunities."

5. Your relationship with food.

Kids are paying attention to the eating habits of the adults in their lives as well as the way they speak about food. Parents and other caregivers "directly influence" the food choices children make and the beliefs they develop about foods, Miller said. "Innocent comments like 'Those are dangerous' around a plate of cookies, labeling foods as 'good' or 'bad,' skipping meals or expressing guilt about eating are all observed and internalized by children," she added.

Over time, such comments and behaviors shape a child's relationship with food, "potentially leading to unhealthy eating habits or attitudes," Miller said.

"Research shows that kids tend to eat the same foods their parents do, both as children and as adults," she said. "By modeling a balanced and positive approach to food, adults can help children develop healthy eating habits and a healthy relationship with food."

6. How you talk about your kid to other adults.

Let's say your child just had an epic meltdown at Target. When you get home, you fill in your partner about what just happened in the form of sarcastic comments about the "amazing morning you two just had" or jokes about the incident, thinking it's probably going over your kid's head.

"They may not know what it all means, but they can pick up the fact that you think negatively about what happened, and this can negatively impact their self-esteem and relationship with you," McCoy said.

When you're talking to a friend, relative or co-parent, whether on the phone or in person, about something that happened with your kid, be mindful about the language you use, McCoy advised.

"Speak to the lesson learned or how you solved the problem versus focusing on the mistake or problem," she said. "Pretend you're talking to your child and speak to your partner about your child how you would to them directly."

Tear Art Fall Wreath

This art fall wreath is the perfect activity for just about any age, from toddlers, preschoolers and up! Kids love to help decorate the house for seasons and holidays, and it makes it even more special when they're decorating with creations they made themselves!

Supplies Needed:

- Paper Plate
- Scissors
- Construction Paper in Fall Colors
- Liquid Glue
- Yarn or String for Hanging
- Fall colored PomPoms, Gems or Sequins



Instructions:

- **Step 1:** Cut out the center of a paper plate so you're left with a ring shape.
- **Step 2:** Tear the fall colored construction paper into small pieces and glue them onto your circle.
- **Step 3:** Do this until the whole area is covered.
- **Step 4:** Add some additional fall colored decorations. You can use pompoms, crumbled up tissue paper, sequins or gems.
- **Step 5:** Once your wreath is dry, tie a piece of yarn or string around it for hanging.

Hang it up to decorate for fall!!



Super Supper

Meatloaf w/
Oven Roasted
Potatoes &
Green Beans
Pick-up day is
Thursday,
September 12th
\$7.00 each

Chicken Black
Bean Enchilada
Casserole w/ a
Side of Fruit
Pick-up day is
Thursday,
September 26th
\$7.00 each

Payment is due before pick-up.

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Vision:

The Winter Park Day Nursery will build a stronger community by providing high-quality, affordable early childhood education that will prepare our children to succeed in school and life.

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