

BASIC TRUTH

GOD LOVES ME

SAY
THIS

WHO'S GOT IT?
GOD'S GOT IT.

DO THIS



MORNING TIME

When you go into your baby's room this month, say, "Good morning, [baby's name]! Are you ready for a great day? I know you are, because God's got it!"



FEEDING TIME

While feeding your baby this month, say, "God loves [baby's name] and is with [him/her] wherever [he/she] goes. God is with [baby's name] at the [place name]. God is with [baby's name] at [place name]." Continue naming places.



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your baby this month and pray, "Dear God, I love this baby so, so much. It gives me great comfort and hope to know that You love [him/her] even more. Thank You for Your love. Help me to trust that when it comes to this baby of mine, You've got it. In Jesus' name, amen."



BATH TIME

Sing to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It" while bathing your baby: "God has always got it. Yes, He does! (clap, clap) God has always got it. Yes, He does! (clap, clap) In the morning, in the night, you are always in His sight. God has always got it. Yes, He does!" (clap, clap)

COMPARISON IS THE THIEF OF CONTENTMENT

By Liz Hansen

Before becoming a parent, I was continually tempted to compare myself to others: My writing, my run times, my interior decorating (or lack thereof), my homemade pizza. I could always find a quick shortcut to discontentment.

Now, as a parent, I face a whole new set of temptations to engage in comparison.

Child Development

MILESTONES: Those stony, immovable pillars of speech, motor skills, and pretend play. Stop eating those wood chips, kid. Don't you see the other toddlers climbing the slide on their own? I mean, you're deep-sixing a full-ride scholarship to college right now.

Musical Talent

If you're going to be a musical prodigy, you should be able to pick out tunes on the piano by now. Your cousin was singing do-re-mi-fa-sol-la-ti-do at 18 months. And please, don't stand on the keys!

Self-confidence

This is the church toddler room, not Alcatraz. See all the fun toys? And look at the other babies. They're all happy and smiling because they love Jesus. And they aren't howling and clinging to anyone's leg.

My son starts preschool in a few months. While I know it's important for him to spend time learning to get along

with other kids, I'm painfully aware it will open up many new avenues for comparison.

Comparison is the moving sidewalk you wander onto, the one that whisks you 50 yards away to a bad place before you take a step. It's always right there, just one tiny thought away, ready to slide you silently, deeply into a mire of discontent.

Contentment, simply speaking, is choosing to be happy with what you've got. It's relying on God to give you the power to control your thoughts. To recognize comparison when it creeps in and to rip it up by the roots before it can grow. It's learning to live in a state of gratitude for even the smallest things.

I still want my son to be an early and avid reader, a musical prodigy, an enthusiastic young hiker, an independent spirit. But aside from teaching him to love God and love others, the greatest gift I can give him is to model contentment. If he can learn to see and find joy in even the smallest, simplest things God has given him, he's found something of far more value than performing a cello recital by age three.

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