

Child-Proof Door ??

Well Folks...

When you're a family with a whole lot of young'un's....like our's is...one of the first things you think about when they start getting' about on their own...is "Baby-Proofing" the house...with special latches on the cabinet doors and drawers...puttin' all the small or breakable items up high...and that sort of thing. Then, later on it becomes "Child-Proofing"! After THAT ... if you have to "de-proof" the house... it's a different kind of "proof" we're talkin' about there And THAT's another story altogether! Today I'm talkin' about "Child-Proofing"!!

As you know...we're a family of all girls...and when all these gals got married and started having young'uns...all thoughts turned to what was in reach of little fingers and what they could grab.... 'cause whatever came in contact with those little "grabbers"...eventually made it into their mouths! So we all became extremely conscious of anything the little ones might touch and ingest! We "latched" the cabinets, anchored the Christmas Tree with weed-eater line...clamped the toilet seat down....and did all the things we could do to make our homes safe for our little darlings!

But then....they turned THREE....!! And the whole world changed!!! Not only could they CLIMB....they could TURN DOOR KNOBS!!! Our greatest fear was that one of them would get outside without someone noticing....because there's not a fence made that can hold a determined three-year-old! But you know....all door-knobs don't lead outdoors! Some of the worst ones are right there in the house....and this story is about one of those....the BATHROOM DOOR!

My niece, Nikki's little boy, Aiden is one very precious, precocious...and independent little individualand she was very proud when he began to tell her when he wanted to "go potty". So off to the bathroom they'd go...and Nikki would close the door behind them, explaining that this was the proper thing to do to ensure privacy!

Well...when Aiden approached the three-and-a-half mark....he wanted to go to the bathroom by himself....which made Nikki very proud indeed....but Aiden also wanted to close the bathroom door and be alone! Now that made Nikki extremely nervous....but she had her ear pressed firmly to the door....ready at any minute to rush in and "save the day"!! So she "child-proofed" the bathroom, and when she was completely sure that nothing could go wrong....she began to relax her vigilance at the door.

Then one day when Aiden informed her that he was "going to potty"....she realized that several minutes had passedand Aiden hadn't

reappeared from taking care of his “business”! Terrified....Nikki ran to the bathroom Tried to open the door....and to her horror...discovered that it was locked....from the inside! In a trembling voice, she called his name.... “Aiden? Are you in there?” And she exhaled a sigh of relief when a tiny voice answered, “Yes...I’m here!” And Nikki asked... “Are you alright?” And a sweet little voice answered... “Yes...I am!” Then Nikki said... “Aiden...open the door for Mommie.” And the little darling answered... “No!”

“NO??” “**NO????”**

An hour ... a coat hanger, a hat pin, a paper clip and an ice pick later...Nikki, in desperation...decided to get a screw-driver and take off the door-knob... then she thoroughly “fanned” the rear-end of her defiant young man and placed him in “The Sad Seat”!!! While the little feller was tearfully protesting his sentence in “Time Out”....Nikki was in the process of preventing this nasty incident from ever happening again....She put the door-knob back on the bathroom door....BACKWARDS!! And walked away...perfectly satisfied that the problem was solved....forever!

And it was a pretty good idea because now...when Aiden pushed the lock button as he walked past the bathroom door... Nikki would go behind him and simply flick the button back to unlock! Also ...she made sure he never closed the door again...! Problem solved...until a couple of nights later...another niece, Jesse spent the night with them. Sometime during the night, the household was shaken awake by screams and loud pounding noises...coming from the guest bathroom!! Apparently Jesse hadn’t been told about the door lock...and apparently at some time that evening...Aiden had pushed the button ...and later that night, Jesse had shut the bathroom door ... and couldn’t get out!!! Problem? Jesse is claustrophobic!!

Nikki eventually woke up and rushed to the rescue....and a wild-eyed, claustrophobic Jesse...emerged into the hallway...sobbing and gasping for breath....! Needless to say....no one slept the rest of the night...except for little Aiden....He was quite unconcerned.... after the initial excitement.... and climbed back into his little bed to be promptly “carried away” by the Sandman!!

Well...the doorknob went back on the bathroom door the way it was originally intendedand when Aiden wants to “go potty”...Nikki stands guard with her foot in the doorway until he is ready to come out!!!

Lord Help us when he turns FOUR!