

Connections



However Good or Bad a Situation, It Will Change

Parent-to-Parent Column

Boy oh boy do I live this lesson every day now. My son Sammy is screaming his head off for some indiscernible reason for a good 30 minutes. I mean bloody murder kind of screaming. Like his mother is pulling off his toenails slowly kind of screaming, which of course I'm not. I'm doing laps around my house and switching him from shoulder to shoulder as often as possible to avoid the one armed Popeye muscle a la those tennis players like Nadal. I'm bouncing, dancing, singing (maybe that's why he's screaming) and shushing. Oh when oh when will this ever end?

And then his eyes lock on to something random - an overhead light, the TV weather forecast, a piece of furniture he never noticed before. And the screaming stops. It's over. Afraid to awake him from his calm trance, I just keep doing whatever it was I was doing when he stopped, unsure if my hopping on one foot or patting his back or humming that terrible jingle is what is keeping him happy or if it truly is just that dust bunny in the corner capturing his attention.

So there we are for another 10 minutes or so in peace and quiet, the TV stuck on the wrong channel because I'm horrified to disrupt the calm and chance reaching for the remote taunting me a mere foot away on the table. Just as my left arm is about to fall off from being frozen in a never ending Red Light, Green Light game with a baby, and a very hungry cat tickling my ankles looking for dinner, reinforcements arrive. My husband, Andy, is home from work.

His arrival snaps Sammy out of his trance and he turns to see who has arrived. Spinning around, I hold my breath to see if he will start screaming again or remain calm. Andy greets his little boy with a big hello and receives a slow growing, toothless grin that turns into a big smile and happy coo. Hurrah!

Relieved and eager for peaceful family time at the end of a long day I look down into my arms, just in time to see sweet Sammy's smile turn into a quivering chin and a pouting mouth that emits a long crescendo of a wail. Just like that, the switch has been flipped. In less than an hour, we have gone from hysterics, to dead calm, to joy, to misery. Nothing is static in the world of a baby. Just as nothing is static for any of us. And as a result, I hand my precious little crying boy over to his father and head off with the cat for something to eat.

By: Molly Gamache
41 year-old first-time mom, being taught new lessons every day by her 4 month-old son.
Visit her online at www.thebumblesblog.blogspot.com for more entertainment.

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ph: 508-655-2557

fx: 508-655-2753

www.natickearlychildhood.org

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Winter Weather Policy:

NECN will be closed when
Natick Public School closes.
Notices can be found on
local tv and radio stations and
will be posted on our website.

Free Play Opportunities (NO Registration Needed)

* For children w/an adult caregiver, check the calendar for this session's scheduled times. Please note days we are closed.

Drop In (NECN Playroom): a free, safe space away from home to play and meet other Natick families.

Open Gym (Cole Center Gym): great for practicing gross motor skills and to "shake your sillies" out.

Pre-Walkers Drop In (NECN Playroom): a time set aside specifically for our littlest ones to ensure their safety from bigger kiddos.

KiddieKraft (Classroom across from NECN): offers children an opportunity to experiment with art and craft materials.

MusicMinute (Cole Center Gym): Join Miss Lindsey for some singing, dancing, and parachute fun during the last half hour of open gym on 1/13, 1/23,

Japanese Chat & Play (NECN Playroom): an informal playtime for Japanese speakers.