

Docia Shares a Story: There never seems enough time

by Docia Zavitkovsky

A verse by Eleanor Furjion begins, "There isn't time, there isn't time, to do the things I want to do . . ."

These words brought back memories of many years ago when I wanted to write short rhymes about young children and their doings that could be put on the bulletin board for teachers and parents to read and enjoy — rhymes that dealt with manipulative, over-active, shy, and withdrawn children, children who didn't follow directions, were bossy, always in motion. There never seemed to be enough time, though, to get this project started.

Lately, as I was sorting through "stuff" from staff meetings in the 1940s, I found several rhymes written by staff that were put on bulletin boards of two child development centers. I clearly recall how great the discussions about them were, and how there was a hope that they could become a regular part of our staff meetings. But, as before, there never seemed enough time to get the project started.

The following are two rhymes that remained intact:

Yesterday he found himself,
Alone out in the hall,
And took out his crayolas,
And colored on the wall.
His mother wasn't happy
To see what he had done,
She couldn't even understand
Why he thought it was such fun.
It's not he was an artist,
It's not that he was bad,
It merely was the only spot
To color that he had.

My question to you: what would you have done?

Here's the second one:

Tommy said to Johnny,
Let's go outside and play.
Johnny answered Tommy,
No, inside I'd rather stay.

The teacher came and asked them why
They were mad and 'bout to cry
When Tommy could go out and play
And Johnny he inside could stay.
This to them was a surprise,
And brought about a compromise:
Half the time outside they'd play,
The other half inside they'd stay.

My question to you: if you were the teacher, what would you do?

Well, Edna St. Vincent Millay they are not, but as I think back, the experience was fun, meaningful, and a wonderful way of coming together and sharing.

Furjion ended her rhyme this way: "There's only time, there's only time, to know a few and do a few, and then sit down and make a rhyme about the rest you want to do!"

Try it at one of your staff meetings and send me some of your rhymes so they can be shared! Contributions may be e-mailed to Docia in care of cwwhite@ChildCareExchange.com.

Docia Zavitkovsky has furthered the cause of young children as a practitioner in the field for over 50 years and as past president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Known far and wide for her storytelling, she has traveled extensively as an early childhood consultant, lecturer, and adventurer.



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