

Dear Father, I am glad you keep
Awake when little children sleep."

But thankfulness must be shown not only in word, but also in deed. The words of that hymn which every child should know, aptly express this idea :

"Can a little child like me,
Thank the Father fittingly ?
Yes, oh yes ! be good and true,
Patient, kind in all you do ;
Love the Lord and do your part ;
Learn to say with all your heart,
Father, we thank Thee !
Father in heaven we thank Thee !"

We must give the child opportunity to show his thanks in tangible form. For example, at Thanksgiving or Christmas by a little self-denial, there can be a giving as well as a receiving that some child less fortunate may have a glad Thanksgiving Day, or a happy Christmas. There is an inward glow that comes with such little sacrifices, which will make the child eager to show his thankfulness again by sharing with others. Thus, the habit of thankfulness is formed, for thankfulness like other things, is increased through practice. It is a habit which a few people seem to have deep-rooted and instead of going about grumbling about the hardships of life, they overflow with gratitude for the joys allotted them—and they are not usually those people whose paths have fallen in most pleasant places. Let us help our children to acquire this habit.

Thankfulness is increased by example. Let us always remember to say "thank you" for the little gifts and sacrifices on the part of our children. We cannot expect them to be grateful to us unless we show gratitude to them.

Stories furnish examples of gratitude. If we confine ourselves to the Bible alone we find considerable choice. There is the story of the thanksgiving of the Israelites upon crossing the Red Sea, that of the healing of the ten lepers, that of the children singing their glad hosannas at the triumphal entry of our Lord, and Mary's beautiful song : "My soul doth magnify the Lord." Let our children learn such passages as this and The Shepherd's Psalm, as well as their more simple praise songs, that they may know the

joy of singing with their whole hearts in gratitude to God, their Creator and Father.

Toronto



Rainy Day Occupations

"Rain, rain, go away ;
Come again some other day,
For little Johnnie wants to play."

The old nursery rhyme well illustrates the spirit in which most rainy days are met by the little ones. What then may be done to make the outwardly gloomy weather sunny and bright within doors ?

A little lad of three summers, as active and fond of outdoor sports as a healthy boy should be, having recently planned a delightful picnic in which wading in the water, and a boat ride held prominent place, awoke to find the rain pouring down upon the long anticipated day.

Disappointment was plainly written upon every feature of the little face, but he bravely pushed back the tears as mama told of the thirsty little flowers and grass that were thankful for the nice drink of water, only remarking : "But mama, seems to me they are drefful thirsty, for it rains most all the time."

Later in the day he had his picnic dinner served upon toy dishes on his little table, with sandwiches, lady-fingers, and a bit of candy to complete the feast. "It is 'most as nice as outdoors," was his satisfied comment, and mama felt amply paid for the trouble.

We have found in our own experience that it is well to have certain "rainy-day" toys and occupations reserved for stormy days when the little people are storm-bound.

Oftimes the more simple the equipment, the greater the pleasure to the child, for the imagination is brought more strongly into play and the interest thus more deeply enlisted.

We sometimes see an odd little "grinder man" about our house. Strapped to his back is the carrier from papa's bicycle (to represent the grinder's stand), in his hand the small table bell, and he marches up and down occasionally stopping to "grind scissors"