

## HOUSEHOLD.

### Amusements for Children

(By Elsie Duncan Yale.)

No dear, don't do that!  
 'Oh, you mustn't take mamma's thread and get it all tangled!  
 'Dearie, please don't pull at the lace curtains!  
 'Oh, don't put buttons in your mouth, you might swallow them.'

And so the child early grows to think that this is indeed a world of 'don'ts' and 'mustn'ts,' where the only desirable things are the forbidden ones.

How much of the so-called mischief of children, is merely the pent up energy, seeking a vent, and the problem which confronts the mother, is how to direct this super-abundant vitality into safe channels. Most children are naturally active, and this activity must take one form or another. How can it best be utilized? A wise mother will avoid the use of the word 'don't,' as far as possible, for it is a disagreeable little word, and its constant use is galling and chafing. She will try to find some other means of expression, even if circumlocution is involved, and if the little one is doing something not permissible, set him at something else, instead of being content with the mere admonition 'Don't do that!'

Our modern shops provide toys for children in bewildering profusion, but it is to be questioned whether the younger generation take any more pleasure in their miniature automobiles and talking dolls, than did their grandmothers with their rag babies and corn-cob blocks, for as a rule the simpler the toy, the more it is enjoyed. One principle must be borne in mind, that a great deal can be taught a child through its play, for play is to a child what work is to its elders. The boy with artistic tendencies will get not only pleasure but profit from a box of paints or crayons, especially if an interest is taken in his crude efforts, and they are encouraged by kindly criticism. The little girl who learns to make her doll's clothes neatly will grow into a deft-fingered young woman and to whom a wardrobe of goodly size is a possibility, since in these days of low-priced fabrics, it is the dress-maker's bill which is the bete noir of the well-dressed woman. Much can be learned of housewifery, with the aid of the toy utensils now found in the stores, and the child will take great pleasure and pride in playing at housekeeping. With the tiny laundry sets, dolly's clothes can be washed and ironed, and a long suffering mother will allow cooking upon one of the toy iron stoves, under her supervision, of course. A little sweeper and broom will help to keep the nursery in order, inculcating, at the same time, a lesson of neatness.

Blocks are a never failing source of amusement, and what child has not revelled in castles and towers? Stringing colored beads is a good occupation for a rainy day, and so is cutting paper dolls, with blunt pointed scissors. A jar of library paste, and some sheets of colored paper will serve as materials for whole wardrobes for the paper ladies; while also teaching little fingers to work deftly and neatly. Every boy should possess a tool-chest, and it is by no means an unfeminine accomplishment to be able to do a little amateur carpentering. The little girl is rare who does not love a doll, whether it be the forlorn little rag-baby of the tenement child, or the latest importation from Paris which can walk and talk. The motherly instinct is there, and a mother can teach her little daughter the proper care of her doll. Dolly's bed can be neatly made every morning and dolly herself dressed. Her clothes can be laundered, and the little mother can learn to do them as well as her own are done. Perhaps she wants to play that the doll is sick. Then the wise mother will lay down her sewing long enough to show her how to set a tray daintily for the invalid, arranging it with as much care as a 'grown up's.'

These are merely a few suggestions which can be easily enlarged upon by a mother who has inventive genius, and she can count the time which is given to the little

ones well spent. To take an interest in the children's play, to be with them, guiding and restraining, to give constant thought and care to their welfare may involve self-denial and sacrifice on the mother's part; but the self-denial and sacrifice are abundantly rewarded by the love of the children for 'the best mamma in the world.'—Presbyterian Banner.

### Practical Kitchen Conveniences.

The kitchen is the workshop of the cook. The needs of this department are of the greatest importance. If the kitchen is not a comfortable place, its mistress cannot do her best to maintain good health in the household. 'Comfort will give health to the body and peace to the mind.'

All sanitary principles must be strictly regarded.

The walls should be of a light color, or at least a cheerful one is essential. Large windows are desirable.

Fresh air, plenty of daylight and sunshine, should be the rule in a well-regulated kitchen, and absolute cleanliness strenuously insisted upon.

Windows that can be easily lowered from the top are a necessity—hot air always rises. Also provide shades on spring rollers.

When ample closet space is not furnished the want may be supplied by excellent movable closets. These have a large closet with either glass or wooden doors, as preferred; beneath this a smaller closet and two drawers. The sides of the lower part have wire screens for ventilation. A hard wood table is a wise convenience. A model pastry table has a marble top, with drawers beneath.

A draining board attached to a sink is of great value.

A neat, well-trimmed lamp is one of the most useful of kitchen furnishings. The light is soft, restful in color and steady, is excellent to work by, will give more comfort at less expense than gas. A side lamp is desirable.

Other ideas include a reliable clock, a covered match safe, a holder for burnt matches, a pair of shears.

Sapallo is successfully used in scouring tin agate dishes and steel knives.

Very practical is a small sieve soap shaker, designed to hold pieces of soap—one dime. Small scrubbing brushes (five cents) are desirable for the sink. A sink drainer is valuable.

Square stove cloths of gingham or ticking are preferable to the old-fashioned holders.

Have all groceries distinctly labelled and a place for each.

Buy substantial articles. A novel tea-kettle is low and very broad—object, heats the water more rapidly than the ordinary tea-kettle. Lightweight agate kettles in various sizes and styles are a blessing.

A floor covering of linoleum adds to the comfort of the room, and also lightens the labor of the housemaid.

Chairs that are high enough to enable the occupant to work easily at the table can now be purchased. A small rug and an easy chair are restful.

The meat chopper is a very useful invention. An excellent utensil is an egg poacher, which has six cups that are removable. A roll pan is divided into separate compartments for each roll. A frying basket to fry doughnuts is useful. A glass-handled measuring cup marked one side into thirds, on the other into fourths, costs five cents, and is a good investment.—American Paper.

### Creamed Ham on Toast.

Chop the remnants of cold boiled ham very fine; make a thin white sauce with one tablespoonful of butter, one tablespoonful of flour and one cupful of milk, salt and pepper for seasoning; add the ham to this and pour it over buttered toast.

A bit of carefulness which a patient learned from a massagist is that of the burning for a second with a match of the needle whose point is for any purpose to be put into the flesh. After the black has been

wiped away, it is impossible that anything harmful can be lurking on the steel. For the opening of any sore, however insignificant it seems, it is never well to use a pin.

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