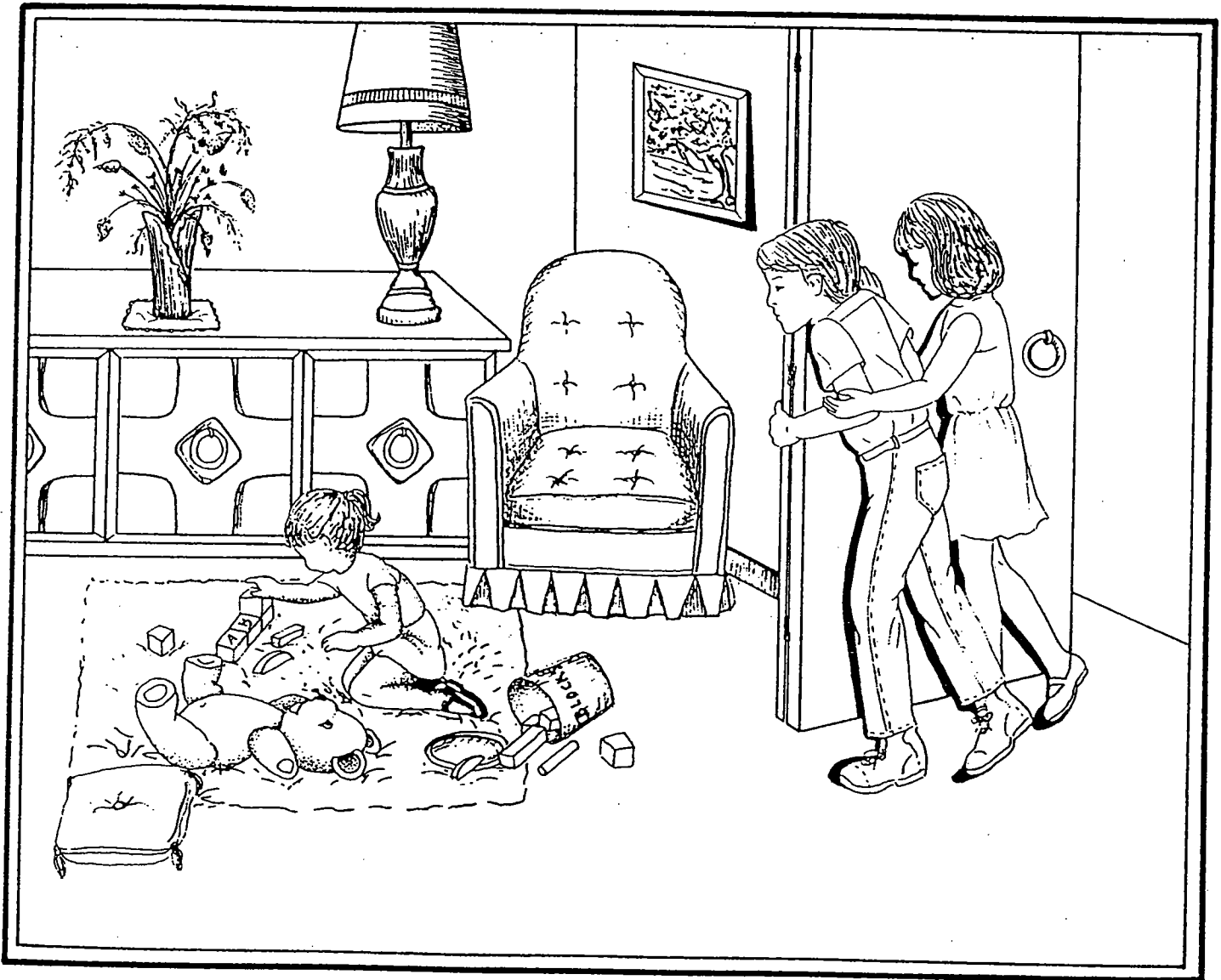


The Mystery of Isadora

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THE MYSTERY OF ISADORA CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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Preface

Happy people understand and accept themselves as well as trying to understand and accept other people.

Because each of us wants to be happy, it is important that we begin to learn about ourselves and other people. A good place to begin seems to be with infants and young children. If you're interested in learning more about yourself and young children, then perhaps you'd go on a visit with me to see some of my friends. They will share with you what they recently learned about young children. Their names are Susie Q. and Joey D. Jones.

Before you begin the story though, will you think of a young child that you may spend some time with in the next two or three

weeks? The child should be 3, 4, or 5 years old. When you have thought of a child to work with, talk with your parents and your 4-H leader about it. Then you will need to visit the parents of the child you choose to ask permission to work with their child. Be sure that you explain to them that this is a 4-H project to learn about children, rather than a babysitting project.

By Doing This 4-H Project, You Should Learn:

1. more about yourself.
2. more about how young children grow and develop.
3. some activities that young children will enjoy doing with you.

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CHAPTER 1

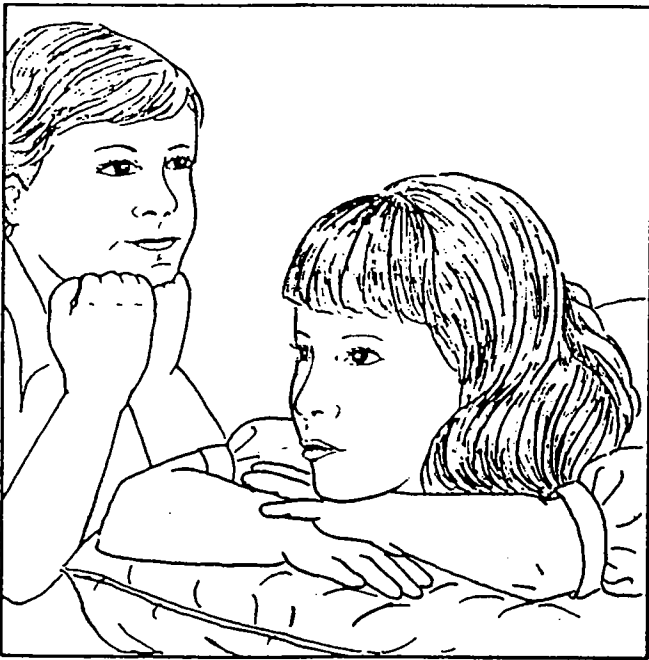
What Will the Mystery Be?

Susie Q. and Joey D. were twins. Because of this, they did a lot of things together and they had developed an interest in mysteries. They liked to read mystery stories and they enjoyed some mysteries they saw on television. One rainy Saturday when they had to remain inside, Susie said to Joey, "Let's solve a mystery!"

"What kind of mystery?" Joey replied.

"Well, let's think of a mystery that is our very own," said Susie. "Remember the story we read about the girl who figured out who the 'good neighbor' in her community was?"

"We have some good neighbors," Joey said, "but to figure out who they are would not be our very own mystery."



They thought and thought! They had many ideas such as, why a mockingbird sits in the tip top of a tree on a cold, rainy day, or why water sometimes gurgles when it pours. They talked with their mother about their mystery and she thought these might be rather difficult mysteries for Susie Q. and Joey D. to solve. They thought some more.

Finally, Joey D. exclaimed, "I have it. I know what our mystery can be!"

"What?" asked Susie Q.

Joey replied, "Do you remember father saying that with a little effort, children can be understood? That what they do gives us clues about their feelings, and that everyone should try to understand them?"

"Are you thinking that maybe we could solve the *mystery of Isadora*?"

"Exactly! Let's start right away."

Isadora Maulsby was a little girl who lived near Susie Q. and Joey D. She had lived there all her life and they had watched her grow since she was a newborn baby. At four years old, Isadora sometimes did things that Susie Q. and Joey D. certainly could not understand. For example, though she was usually a nice little kid, she would sometimes yell dirty words at them. Her parents did not talk this way, and they wondered why Isadora did. They also wondered why she did many other things.

Mother was out in the kitchen when Joey and Susie decided what their mystery would be. They thought she might help them solve their mystery, so they went to the kitchen to ask her. When they got there, they found their 4-H leader was there, having a cup of coffee with their parents. They were very excited about their mystery, and he suggested they solve their mystery and do a 4-H project all at the same time. This puzzled Susie and Joey.



"With any mystery," he explained, "you need to know exactly what you are trying to solve or what the question is. You also need to gather all the facts you can that relate to your mystery, and then study what you have, to see if you can solve your mystery with the facts you have."

"Well, with any 4-H Project, you need to have some objectives. You need to learn something that helps you achieve your objectives, and you need to check to see if you really have achieved them."

"Oh, I see," said Susie, "solving our mystery can be the objective, we can gather clues as facts that relate to our mystery, and when our mystery is solved, our objective will be achieved."

The 4-H leader agreed that this was exactly right and said they should get started right away. Their mother and father volunteered to help as Susie and Joey rushed back to their study area to begin solving their very own mystery while doing a 4-H Project.

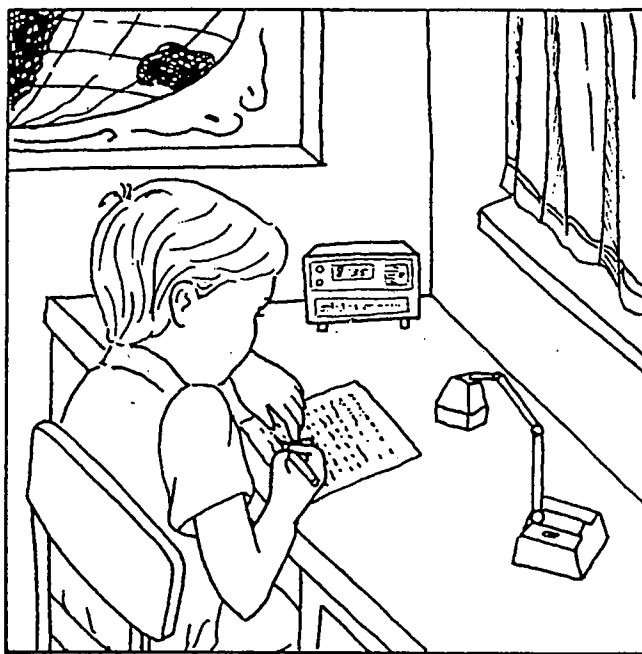
They certainly wanted to understand Isadora better. So this seemed to be one of their objectives. They also wanted Isadora to like them and they wanted to like her. Since sometimes they were asked to play with Isadora when their parents visited, they thought it would be nice to know how to play with her. And their father had said once that if you want to understand other people, you must first understand yourself. Perhaps they should try to understand what they were like when they were little and this might help them understand Isadora better.

When Joey D. and Susie Q. talked about these objectives or questions they wanted to find answers to, they decided they should write them down. Otherwise, how would they ever know if they had found answers to all of them or had achieved their objectives?

Joey asked Susie to write for them, but she said that girls always had to be the secretary and she didn't think this was fair.

"You can write for us this time," she said.

So Joey D. got his paper and pencil and was ready to begin.



Because Father had said "understand yourself before you try to understand others," they thought this should be the first objective. Joey listed their objectives like this:

1. I want to understand myself better. The mystery is: Why am I like I am?
2. I want to understand Isadora better. The mystery is: Why is Isadora like she is?
3. I want to like Isadora and have Isadora like me. The mystery is: How can I be a real friend to Isadora?
4. I want to know how to play with Isadora. The mystery is: What are some things that I can do with Isadora that she will enjoy?

So far, their mystery was shaping up and Susie and Joey were still excited. But after they looked at their objectives and questions, they were a bit confused and didn't know quite what to do next. They decided to talk with their mother and father about it. When they got to the kitchen, they found that Mother had gone on an errand, but Father was glad to help. He put his paper aside and read their list of objectives.

He said, "I think you should solve your mystery first. Forget about your 4-H project right now because when you have finished, the project will automatically be completed too."

Joey and Susie could not understand how the project could complete itself. However, it was somewhat confusing trying to do two

things at one time. They thought they would take Dad's suggestion and see what happened.

Activities

1. What is the name of the young child that you have chosen to work with? _____
2. How old is the child? _____
3. Have you talked with your parents about this project? yes _____ no _____

4. Have you talked with the young child's parents about your project? yes _____ no _____
5. Have you talked with your 4-H leader about your project? yes _____ no _____

CHAPTER 2

When Susie and Joey Were Babies

Mother returned from her errand and asked how the mystery was developing.

"We need some help," Susie and Joey chimed.

Mother asked, "What's the problem?"

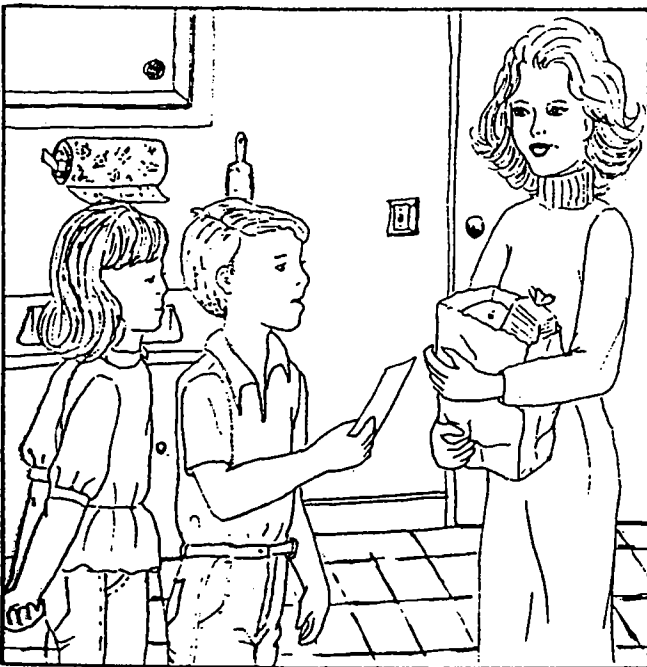
"Well, we tried to do a 4-H project and solve a mystery at the same time and that was confusing," Susie said.

"Now we seem to have four mysteries," Joey replied, and he read her their list of mysteries.

"Well, it is sometimes much easier to solve one mystery at a time, though sometimes you may work on more than one." Mother said.

Susie suggested that they look at their mysteries one at a time. They pondered over the mystery, *Why am I like I am?*, for some time. They thought, perhaps it was because they were twins, but even though they were twins, they were different. Then they thought it must be the community they lived in. That couldn't be it because people who lived in the same community were different.

They asked their Mother and Father to give them some clues as to why they were like they were, and Mother suggested they get the family photograph album. This was a mystery itself, but Susie Q. went to get it.



When she returned, Mother said. "To understand yourself, you must know something about how you grew and developed during infancy and early childhood.

"What's infancy?" asked Joey.

"That's babyhood. During the first two years of life, a baby is sometimes called an infant," said Mother.

"Do we have to look at baby pictures?" asked Joey.

"No, but they may provide a clue to understanding yourself and Isadora," said Mother.

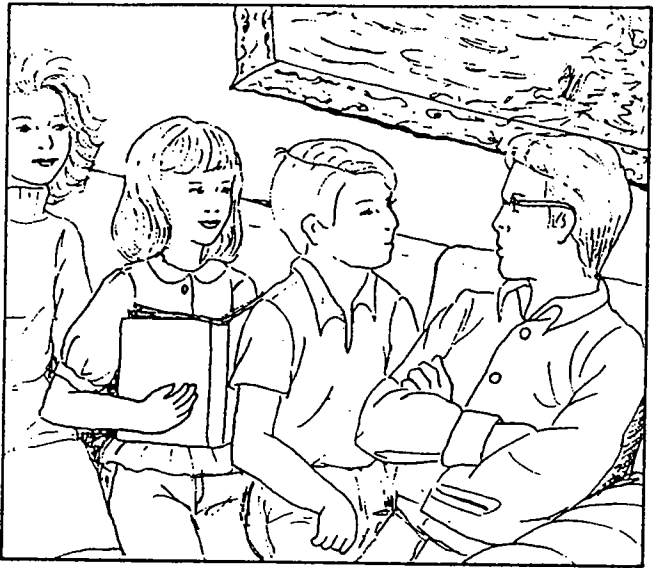
"All babies look alike to me," said Susie Q.

Mother explained that each baby is different. They grow differently, they develop differently, and they behave differently. However, children are similar too. At birth, most infants weigh about 7 pounds (approximately 3 kilograms). They measure about 20 inches (approximately 50 centimeters) long, but a normal range of length is from 17 to 21 inches (approximately 43-53 centimeters).

"You and Joey D. did not weigh as much when you were born. Twins usually do not weigh 7 pounds each."

"How much did we weigh?" asked Joey D.

"You weighed 5 pounds and 2 ounces and Susie weighed 5 pounds."



"And how long were we?" asked Susie.

"You were each 19 inches long."

"I can't tell from the pictures how big we were. How could we find out, if you didn't remember, Mother?" asked Joey D.

"Many times parents keep a written record of their baby's growth and development in a Baby Book. We have one for you."

"Could we look at that too?" asked Susie.

"Sure," replied Mother.

Father came in while Mother was getting the Baby Book. When Mother returned, the four of them looked at the book. Joey D. and Susie Q. learned many things about themselves. They learned that each had blue eyes at birth, but Susie's had turned brown by the time she was six weeks old. Both of them had dark hair at birth, but this was soon replaced with lighter brown hair. Joey cut his first tooth when he was six months old, and Susie cut her first one at seven months. Susie walked when she was eleven months old and Joey at twelve months.

As they looked at their baby pictures, Father told Susie and Joey some things about infants that they had not known before. He pointed out that an infant's body is not proportioned the same as that of an older child. For instance, an infant's head is about one-fifth of its total body length and it has a very short neck so that its head seems to rest right on its shoulders. The arms of an infant are about the same length as its legs. At birth, the baby's head and arms are nearer to



adult size than are his trunk (body), legs, feet, and hands. In other words, the baby's body, legs, feet, and hands will grow more after birth than its head and arms will.

"Wowee, I never knew there was so much to learn about myself," sighed Susie.

"Are all infants like that?" asked Joey.

Father had to do some work in the yard, now that it had stopped raining, but before he left, he answered, "All infants and children are alike in some ways. but they are different too. Could we talk about this again tomorrow?"

"Yes!" cried Susie and Joey, as they went out to help their father.

Activities To Help You Learn About Yourself

1. Get a picture of yourself when you were an infant (2, 3, or 6 months old); compare

this to pictures of yourself at 3, 4, or 5 years old. Place these beside a recent picture of you. How have you changed?

2. Your Birth weight was ___lbs. ___oz.

3. Your birth length was _____ inches.

4. Read birth announcements in a newspaper to note weight and length of infants.

Infant's birth weight _____

Infant's birth length _____

5. Ask your parents to show you your birth certificate. When do you use a birth certificate? _____

6. What color were your eyes when you were born? _____
What color are they now? _____

7. What color was your hair when you were born? _____ What color is it now? _____

CHAPTER 3

How Children Grow

The next day Mother asked, "Has the mystery been solved yet?"

Susie, answering as chief investigator, replied, "Many clues are still coming in and no conclusions can be drawn yet!"

Father said, "You remember I said that all infants are alike in some ways and different in some ways. Children follow a pattern of development."

"Like a dress pattern?" asked Susie.

"I'm really confused," said Joey.

"No, not like a dress pattern," laughed Mother. "I can surely understand your confusion. Learning about yourself and young children is some mystery!"

"When are we going to learn about Isadora?" asked Joey.

"Soon," promised Mother, "but first I think I should give you a few more clues about how children grow and develop. These will help you solve the mystery of Isadora."

Developing according to a pattern may best be explained with some examples. Children crawl before they stand alone, and they stand alone before they walk. During the

first four months of an average baby's life, its weight will about double; during the first year, it will triple. It will double again by the time the child is six years old. Always remember though that each child is different and some variation is quite normal.

"If you weighed about 5 pounds when you were born," asked Father, "how much did you weigh when you were one year old?"

"Fifteen pounds," answered Joey.

"A little more than that," said Mother. "Because you were a twin, your birth weight was low. However, you grew more during the first year. Susie weighed 20 pounds and Joey weighed 20 pounds and 5 ounces."

"Yes, children will grow at slightly different rates," answered Father. "But all children will weigh approximately three times their birth weight when they are one year old. They will grow about twelve to fourteen inches taller during their first two years of life."

1. How tall were you when you were two years old? _____ inches

2. How much did you weigh when you were one year old? _____ pounds

