

Tips for Parents by Susie Kohl

Watching Adults Work: Lessons in Persistence, Patience

TODAY, OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN to watch adults working aren't as abundant as they were in the past. Previously, adults counted on children to learn tasks and contribute to the family home or business.

It's apparent to those of us who work in preschool how eager children are to observe adults working. The drain-repair man recently endured a huge preschool audience, sitting in chairs around him in our yard for a half hour or more. Just as many gathered to watch a teacher work on her sewing machine.

When children watch adults work, they learn more than techniques. The concentration and pleasurable flow of work, along with the mistakes and frustration, provide lessons about being persistent and patient.

It's nice when we remember to invite children to be with us while we're working and ask them to offer assistance as they are able. Those images help them to envision the adult world and imagine it as a satisfying place.

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