

Tip for Class – Can a teacher be too nice?

A teacher who truly enjoys children may feel the urge to “mother” children, especially children who obviously need and want a close emotional relationship with a mothering person and have a disturbed relationship with their own mother.

Surprisingly, “mothering” may not be the best way for a kind and loving teacher to help a troubled child. No matter how warmly a teacher relates to a child, the teacher can never provide what the child wants from a mother. The teacher leaves at the end of the day, spends week-ends away, does not cook for the child, or care for her when she is sick.

Erna Furman, in “Helping Children Grow” explains that when a teacher “mothers” a child it creates new problems for the child, rather than making the child feel more secure. As the child gets closer to the teacher, she hopes for more and more love.

It is hard for a teacher not to be very flattered when a child shows how much she likes the teacher, but in the long run, letting a relationship with a child get too close only creates new frustrations and

disappointments for the child. No matter how much empathy a teacher feels for a child, at the end of the school year, the teacher’s attentions turn to a new class with new children who may need her. Although a perfectly normal process, moving to a new grade feels like rejection to a child who wants the teacher to truly

Surprisingly, “mothering” may not be the best way for a kind and loving teacher to help a troubled child.

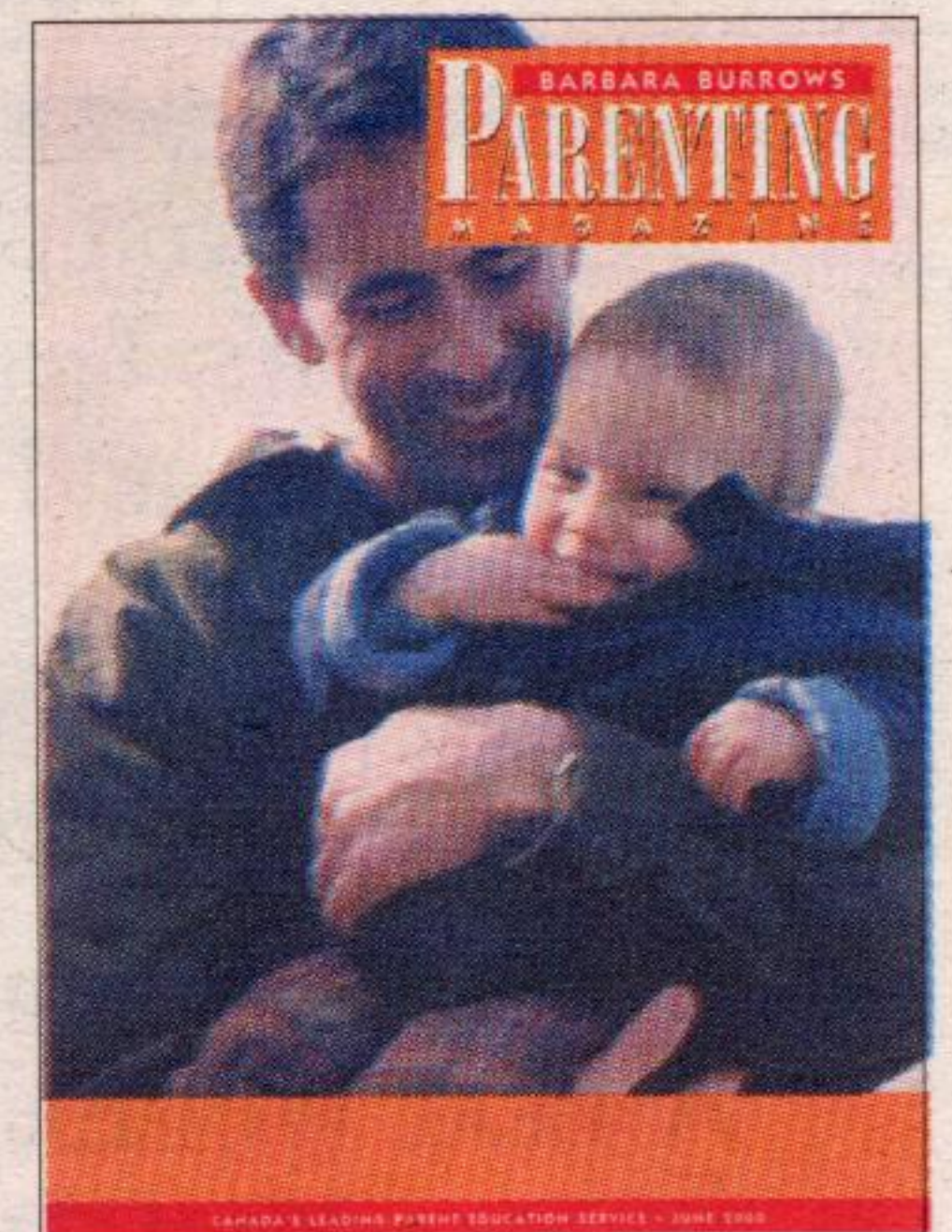
love her. Ms. Furman suggests that a teacher can benefit a child best by establishing a friendly, respectful, and professional relationship whereby student and teacher keep some emotional distance and focus on the important work they have to do together - finding a way to help the child progress academically.

If the teacher-student relationship focuses on this common goal, the child can move on, feeling a sense of accomplishment and joy in her relationship with her teacher, not a profound sense of loss at the end of the school year with the loss of a substitute mother.

For more information, see “Helping Young Children Grow” by Erna Furman (International Universities Press)



Don't miss the next issue of Parenting Magazine



COMING OCTOBER

Play Junction Inc.

CELEBRATING CHILDHOOD

Play Junction is an Indoor Playground which caters to children up to 7 years of age. Our safe and climate controlled play environment stimulate the imagination and encourage active play.

Play Junction also offers **Nursery School** and **Junior Kindergarten** programs in conjunction with Springfield Preparatory and Nursery School. A well-established Mississauga based private school. Programs run mornings and afternoons 3 days a week.

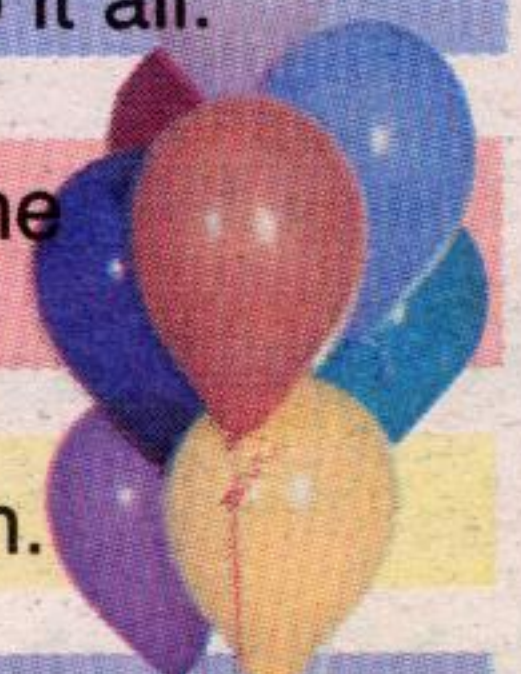
Play Junction offers a variety of **party packages** from do-it-yourself to leave-it-all-to-us. All two-hour parties include staff to assist you, coffee, tea and invitations and leave the clean-up to us. Have a particular theme in mind or a special occasion - let us help. Birthday parties, showers, play groups, team parties, family get-togethers, we can do it all.

Bi-weekly Theme suppers offer the children the party atmosphere and give parents the chance to dine alone on a Friday night. Pizza and dessert, crafts and games, entertain the children for 2 1/2 hours.

Summer and March Break programs for children 3 - 7 years. A different theme each week. Daily from 1 - 4 p.m.

Toddler Time: Thursday mornings 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. A chance for parents to meet and children to play. E.C.E. on staff to guide activities geared to children under 36 months.

Saturday morning Drop-n-Shop - a perfect chance to grocery shop without the kids. Activities from 8:30 - noon every Saturday morning run by E.C.E. staff include craft, games and snack. Pre-registrations accepted.



71 Mountainview Road N. Unit 1
Georgetown, Ontario (905) 873-4166