Milton-area Girl

Guides recognized

Local Girl Guides recently marked the 95th anniversary of

Little Lola Trinity Chan of Milton was one of the babies

born February 22 who received a certificate that will entitle

her to a free one-year membership in Girl Guides of Canada in

2010 — the year that she'll be five years old and eligible for

The certificates were presented by a member of the Girl

Guides, White Oaks area, which encompasses Brampton,

membership. There were also two recipients in Oakville.

Mississauga, Georgetown, Milton and Oakville.

guiding in Canada and World Thinking Day by recognizing

# We're on to this fake crying my granddaughter's a sly one

I'm learning a new language.

You won't find it any books, and you can't learn it in a classroom, but believe me it exists because I hear it every day.

It's a step or two ahead of baby talk because it's intended to make sense, and to my granddaughter I think it does.

Oh, it's easy enough to understand. For example, when she says "num num" it means she wants something to eat or sees something to eat.

But when she comes out with an extended sentence, spoken with complete sincerity, and then waits patiently for my answer I don't know how to respond. I feel as if I'm the one with the language problem so just say: "Num nums?" And she says "yesh" and that's that.

thought perhaps before she was born that I could dictate what I would be called. Something dignified that wouldn't indicate that I was old enough to be a grandfather. It hasn't worked out that way.

She calls me Pop Pop.

I don't know how, when or why she came up with that, but I am Pop Pop,

On the loose

with MURRAY TOWNSEND

maybe forever. One of my kids called their grandfather "Grumpy" and that stuck, so I don't know if there's anything I can do

Nums Before Me.

granddaughter with her animal sounds. the duck says, she goes, "Quack Quack."

I'm currently working on a new one. What does Auntie say? "Bla bla bla." It's coming along.

For some reason, she's good with her "B" words. She says baby, bye bye, ball and babba very clearly. Babba is her bottle or cup. And she can say "Mommy" like nobody's business, probably because she has so much practice at it.

Mostly she gets along with one or two word requests, because she's smart enough to know that we're not smart enough to understand her long sentences. She doesn't appear exasperated or act like we're idiots, which is kind of her. She patiently takes your hand and takes you where she wants

She's also smart enough to know what crying can do for her. And she's confident enough in that tactic that she resorts to fake crying quite frequently. That's something that can work for you for an entire lifetime, but we're catching on. Fool me once, shame on you, fool me two, three, four times, shame on me. Besides, I know a trick for that. I used it with my own kids. When a young one cries you start whispering something. That makes them stop crying so that they hear what you're saying. Pretty smart eh?

People often try to talk to little ones in their own language. We speak slowly, loudly and exaggerated. It seems kind of odd to try to speak in their language when they're trying to learn yours, but it's what we do. I try to avoid it, but I catch myself sometimes and revert to normal talk.

My real problem is that now I use the language without even realizing it. I go through the drive-thru and after they ask what I want my first inclination is to say: "Pop Pop want num nums."

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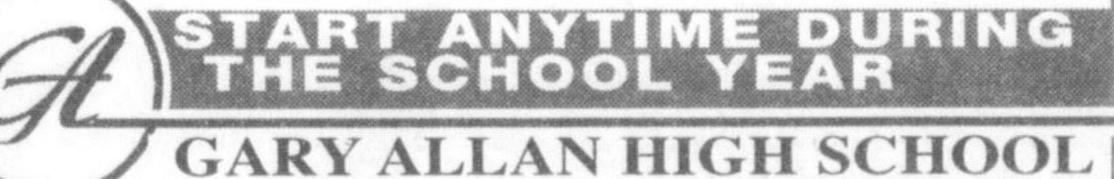
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about this. There could be worse names than Pop Pop, I guess. She could have called me Dopey or Greedy Guy Who Eats the Num

There's no problem understanding my ask what the dog says and she replies, "Woof Woof." I ask what the monkey says and she goes "Ooo Ooo," and if I ask what

Math program available for parents and children Math can be fun, and the Milton once each week for six weeks. Community Resource Centre is offering a Parents will learn strategies to assist their children with mathematical thinking, and program to prove it. Registrations are now being accepted for kids will have a chance to explore math in the Centre's Family Time Math program, a relaxed and fun atmosphere. which begins April 1. Parents and their For more information or to register, call kids aged three to five are invited to particthe Milton Community Resource Centre at ipate in enjoyable math-related activities (906) 876-1244, ext. 15.

