

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

I'm learning a new language.

You won't find it in 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 I just say: "Num nums?" And she says "yesh" and that's that.

I 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,



with **MURRAY TOWNSEND**

On the loose

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 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 Nums Before Me.

There's no problem understanding my granddaughter with her animal sounds. I 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 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 to go.

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."

Math program available for parents and children

Math can be fun, and the Milton Community Resource Centre is offering a program to prove it.

Registrations are now being accepted for the Centre's Family Time Math program, which begins April 1. Parents and their kids aged three to five are invited to participate in enjoyable math-related activities

once each week for six weeks.

Parents will learn strategies to assist their children with mathematical thinking, and kids will have a chance to explore math in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

For more information or to register, call the Milton Community Resource Centre at (906) 876-1244, ext. 15.

Milton-area Girl Guides recognized

Local Girl Guides recently marked the 95th anniversary of guiding in Canada and World Thinking Day by recognizing girls born on the occasion.

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 membership. There were also two recipients in Oakville.

The certificates were presented by a member of the Girl Guides, White Oaks area, which encompasses Brampton, Mississauga, Georgetown, Milton and Oakville.

GEORGETOWN VEIN & LASER COSMED CLINIC

Dr. Henry Lau, M.D.

- Laser Hair Removal
- Laser Vein Removal
- Photo Skin Rejuvenation
- Laser Pigmented Lesion Removal
- Medical Microdermabrasion
- Acne Treatment & Prevention

FDA Approved Laser for Men & Women

905.702.9988

99 Sinclair Ave., Suite #202
www.laseradv.com

This Coupon Offers

One FREE case of Spring Water!!!

to each new customer based on 12 month agreement (O.A.C.)

YES! we delivery
NO! additional delivery fee
NO! minimum quantities per delivery

A case of 24 500ml bottles is **ONLY \$5.45** delivered PLUS PST

Call **FLAMBORO SPRINGS**
1-888-829-3020

MENS MASTERS SLOW PITCH BASEBALL

We are looking for new players
30 YEARS & UP



Season runs May 1 - Oct.
Wed. & Sunday nights @8:30pm
at Brookville Park - Guelph Line
2 minutes north of Mohawk Slots
\$150. includes 2 year end banquet tickets

REGISTRATION

Saturday, March 19 • 2-4pm
at Mohawk Inn, 401 & Campbellville

OR CALL

BRIAN 905-854-0293 **JOHN** 905-854-0755 **PAUL** 905-876-1851

webhome.idirect.com/~bearmugs

You are invited to our...

GRAND OPENING

Sat. March 26th
10am-5pm

Have an opportunity to meet
Ken, Kate & Peter!

FREE 10 minute consultations!

GRAND OPENING SPECIAL....
\$30 OFF YOUR FIRST VISIT
When you book on/by March 26, 2005.

Refreshments will be served.

NOW OFFERING... Massage therapy with Peter Broser R.M.T.

Kate Rheume
B.Sc., N.D.

Kenneth Bateman
B.Sc., N.D.

Peter Broser
R.M.T.

Now Accepting New Patients

335 Main Street East, Milton
905.693.1993

Upgrade Your Skills

For the workplace
For college or university
For yourself

- Individualized Learning with teacher support
- Open Days as well as Tues to Thurs evenings
- Flexible Hours
- Earn your High School Diploma



START ANYTIME DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

GARY ALLAN HIGH SCHOOL
Adult, Alternative and Community Education

215 Ontario Street South, Milton
(located on E.C. Drury HS Campus)
http://ga.hdsb.ca

To Register Call: **905-878-2244**

"Whatever it takes"