

REMEMBER WHEN?

By Karen I. Smith

It will soon be Father's Day and we want Dad to have a happy one. We also might want our kids' Dad to have a happy one but it isn't always easy to think of ideas that incorporate the happiness of all. For my part, I have a few ideas that could be beneficial to those still wondering what to do.

Since it's Father's Day (not Husband's Day), then, of course, we can't deprive the kids of the fun of waking Dad up with breakfast that they themselves have created for him in the secret early hours by themselves in the kitchen. Let them decide whether to serve him in bed, or to go up and bring him down when its ready. Mothers are not supposed to interfere in the preparation of this breakfast.

Then its gift giving time. Whatever the kids chose for Dad is always THE BEST, but if you are stuck for ideas, should they ask, you can always offer to donate the family collection of Canadian Tire coupons and then escort them to the store while they shop, each with their own share of the loot. You could suggest a BBQ apron and/or new implements, as we all know that that is Dad's very own realm there. Mothers are not supposed to BBQ. If they're buying him clothes, they probably know that his favourite colour is blue light. That's probably his favourite flavour, too. The dollar stores are also good. There are neat and innovative tools, gizmos, and games at the back, and beer nuts up front. The best priced cards are there, too. SO!!! It looks like the day is already set for being a perfect one.

After gift-giving time, what to do? Well, how about the game 'Remember When', a perfect quality-time activity. It's very easy. The kids have Dad sit in his favourite chair; they pull up a stool for him to rest his feet on; and the game begins with each of them taking turns remembering when Dad did/said strange or memorable things, which may be one and the same thing. Mothers may interject in this game, correct when necessary, and may also have a turn or two.

First Child - Remember the time Daddy came with us to the mall and Mommy let him pick out his own socks! Daddy was so happy when Mommy said that purple was her favourite colour.



Second Child - Remember the time when Daddy was with us on that hike in the back woods and he scared everyone with a big yell and a Karate kick to a cedar tree, and then the tree fell over! We thought Daddy was stronger than Hulk Hogan. I went back there later and I saw that it was rotten at the bottom but I didn't tell on you, Daddy.

Mother - Remember the time you cooked spaghetti and forgot to stir it.

First Child - Remember when Mom threw out an unchecked lottery ticket and you went looking through all those bags of garbage. Before that, we always loved going to the dump with you.

Second Child - Remember when you balanced that big stick on your nose, and then it slipped!!!

Mother - Remember when you popped popcorn in the electric frying pan without the lid on! And you said you wondered what it would be like if all the kernels popped in the same instant.

Well, that should take care of most of the morning. But what about the afternoon. Well, what do Dads like best. If you said that you thought they like their shop and their tools best, then you'd probably get 99% on that test. So everybody escort Dad to his shop, perhaps the kids will present a nice bouquet of wildflowers and put them in the oil-can, and then the rest of you all head to the beach. If you want to do Dad a really big favour, then (particularly Mom) research all the best bathing trunks of the day so that he doesn't have to worry

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