

dry, then later he needed no potting throughout the night but would still wake dry. Since the three years mark, he wakes in the night and uses a little potty by his bed, then goes back to sleep, all by himself! PTL! Sometimes, he says the cutest things when groggy and half asleep on the potty, like, "You know, the more I talk with you, the more I love you!" Hallelujah!

42. THERE ARE MANY VARYING OPINIONS ABOUT SPANKING OR PUNISHING CHILDREN DURING THE POTTY TRAINING STAGE. At the time I was training Davidito at 17-18 months old, I did feel led to swat him one or two times for deliberately going doo-doo in his pants when I had definitively warned him not to do so. However, I do not feel that this spank is what bore fruit in his successful training. I believe the reason he defiantly disobeyed was out of jealousy over my attention to the newborn baby. Although he got my "attention" with a spank, it was actually my love that he desired.

43. A CHILD WHO IS SUFFICIENTLY LOVED AND UNDERSTOOD WILL NORMALLY TRY HIS BEST TO PLEASE OTHERS. He is not deliberately making mistakes, knowing it will upset you; but rather, when he does wet his pants or bedding, he probably feels quite embarrassed and uncomfortable about it, and maybe even fearful, if you have used punishment or have harshly scolded him about it before.

44. PRAYING ABOUT A CHILD'S MOTIVES OFTEN SHEDS THINGS IN A NEW LIGHT and gives me more understanding in specific, difficult situations. I remember wetting my bed as a child--I never did it purposely and even had a few "em-

barrassing accidents" when I was older, spending the night at a friend's home.

45. IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE LITTLE CHILD IS JUST LEARNING TO CONTROL HIS BLADDER MUSCLES DURING HIS TOILET TRAINING, and he simply cannot prevent having some accidents! Surely an understanding, sympathetic comment from the adult at a time such as this would prove more fruitful than a harsh scold or spank!

Therefore, because little children cooperate and flourish through love and understanding, it seems that physical punishment usually has little or no place in their toilet training.

46. DAVIDITO WAS THE QUICKEST AND EASIEST CHILD TO POTTY TRAIN that I have ever known, not only



because he is very smart, but also because I think that this fun learning procedure helped him learn to potty on his own. We never forced him or harshly scolded him for making mistakes, but rather fully explained to him

why and how he should go potty so he understood the reasoning behind it. He showed the interest to learn on his own, and we encouraged and praised him as much as we could! Praise the Lord!

The following are testimonies from other Family members:

MICHAEL'S TOILET TRAINING at 24 months--by Susanne, his Nanny.

Michael, son of Justus A. and Sally S., was toilet trained in about 4 or 5 hours. He had to have a nap in the middle of it so I carried on when he woke up. He really liked the doll idea, and I think it really helped to spark his interest in it because he was pretty anti-potty at the time.

He liked the idea that he was teaching the doll and was really interested all through it. For him, the doll was mainly for interest because he already knew all the procedures, but it was a real help to make it fun and help him want to do it.

I found after a while he was really fed up with all the drinks and treats and didn't want them at all or anything to do with them; they weren't a reward to him any more. But he really responded to lots of love and praise and hugs and kisses and encouragement. These were obviously of much more value to him, so I stopped offering the snacks and just super-loved him up, and it worked ten times better.

The "friends-who-care" procedure seemed to be really effective and he often talked about the people on his list who were pleased with his success for a long time afterward. He was doing really well, but then he started to get tired and the novelty of this new game was starting to

wear off. He was full of drinks and snacks and bored with being in the same room for so long and wanted to quit. He was done as far as he was concerned.

So I decided we would stop and take off the pressure. I started just to play and relax with him for a few minutes to get him away from thinking about it. He had gotten bored with it and wouldn't feel his pants or anything. So I felt them for him and congratulated him because they were dry each time. Soon he wanted to do it for himself again.

He did really well after that, and by the end of the day he'd been dry the whole time. I gave him the "pants inspections" every 15 minutes.

He still wore nappies at night for about a week after training, as he'd been wetting a lot at night before I trained him, but he was getting drier and drier each night. Then one night we forgot to put his nappy on, but he was dry in the morning, and never wore them after that. I also took him potty before my bedtime and during the night for a few weeks, until he could make it till the morning.

The practice-to-the-potty after "mistakes" worked really well, the poor thing; he hated the humiliation of it! It did help him to try to avoid accidents, however. A few days after training he appeared to be a bit lazy and kept wetting his pants, so the practice runs helped a bit.

I also decided to keep reminding him once in a while, as sometimes when he was really into something it seemed like he just forgot. But when reminded he'd go, and would stay dry continually!PTL!