



# Special Reports

Summer 2006

Life Decisions International

vol. ix • no. 3

## THE JOY OF LISTENING TO CHILDREN



In January 15, 1945, a program titled "House Party" debuted on CBS Radio. The show was later picked up by CBS Television, which began airing it in September 1952. The program moved to NBC, where it ran from December 1969 to September 1970. The host was satirist Art Linkletter.

The most popular segment of "House Party" was called "Kids Say the Darndest Things," during which Linkletter would interview children between the ages of five and ten. In the late 1990s, the "Kids Say the Darndest Things" segment was made into a television program of its own. Aired on CBS, the host was comedian Bill Cosby.

Without exception, every time "Kids Say the Darndest Things" aired, adults were reminded that children really do say the darndest things. And sometimes they even say rather profound things.

While *Special Reports* most often addresses issues of importance to The Pro-Life Movement, it is important that we be reminded for whom we do what we do. Children.

Editor's Note: With limited exception, original source details for the material used below are unknown as they were informally gathered over many months. Where such information is known it is provided.

### What Is Love?

A group of researchers posed this question to a group of 4- to 8-year-olds: "What does 'love' mean?" The answers researchers received proved to be much more telling than they could have imagined.

During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore.

– Cindy, age 8

When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.

– Billy, age 4

When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too."

– Rebecca, age 8

Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.

– Karl, age 5

Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.

– Chrissy, age 6

Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.

– Danny, age 7

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.

– Bobby, age 7

If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.

– Nikka, age 6

Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss.

– Emily, age 8

Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday.

– Noelle, age 7

Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.

– Tommy, age 6

My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.

– Clare, age 6

Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.

– Elaine, age 5

Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Brad Pitt.

– Chris, age 7

Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.

– Mary Ann, age 4

I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.

– Lauren, age 4

When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.

– Karen, age 7

You really shouldn't say "I love you" unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.

– Jessica, age 8

### Children Complete The Thought

Children should be seen and not..."spanked or grounded."

Two's company, three's..."the Musketeers."

A penny saved is..."not much!"

Strike while the..."bug is close."

Better to be safe than..."punch a fifth grader!"

### Helping Him Cry

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about being asked to judge a contest to identify "the most caring child." The winner was a 4-year-old whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing; I just helped him cry."

### From "Kids Say the Darndest Things"

In an episode aired in the 1990s, Bill Cosby asked a boy who cooked dinner at his house. The boy replied, "Pizza Hut."

In another 1990s episode, Cosby asked a boy of Portuguese heritage what he wanted to be when he grew up. The boy said he wanted to grow up to be "a lion."

### Missing The Point

Realizing their house was no longer big enough with a recently born child in the house, 6-year-old Johnny's parents discussed moving to a bigger one. Johnny sat patiently listening to his parents, and then piped in, "It's no use. He'll just follow us anyway."

### Way Too Perceptive

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" Her mother said it was because white is the color of happiness and today is the happiest day of the bride's life. The child thought about this for a moment, and then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

### Way Too Literal

A grandmother bought her 8-year-old grandchild a pair of roller skates for his birthday. "Those are really nice

skates," the grandmother said, "so I wouldn't wear those out in the mud." With a puzzled look the child said, "I know you wouldn't. They wouldn't fit you."

### Ah, Not That Kind

A mother was cleaning the kitchen while her children watched television. Her 6-year-old son came running into the kitchen with an important question. "Mom," he began, "how long is the track for the human race?"

### A Geography Lesson—Sort Of

"If you are surrounded by sea you are an island. If you don't have sea all round you, you are in continent."

### A 6-Year-Old Prays Before A Restaurant Meal

"God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all. Amen!"

### That's Obvious, Dad!

After watching "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," a 5-year-old was anxious to tell his dad about the film. In the middle of the boy's story, the father interrupted. "What caused the submarine to sink?" With a look of disbelief the child said, "Dad, it was the 20,000 leaks!"

### The Good Samaritan—Almost

After hearing a sermon about the Good Samaritan, a mother asked her 5-year-old what she would do if she saw a bleeding person lying on the roadside. The girl responded, "I think I'd throw up!"

### Now *That's* A Hairy Uncle?

While visiting a wax museum, a 4-year-old boy pointed to a werewolf and exclaimed, "Hey look! It's Uncle John!"

### How To Tell The Gender Of Kittens

A 3-year-old and his father went to see newborn kittens. He later told his mother there were two boys and two girls in the litter. "How did you know?" his mother asked. Recalling that his dad had pick up each kitten and look underneath, the boy replied, "It's printed on their bottoms."

### Advice On Life From A 9-Year-Old

"Don't think life is easy, because when you get older it is hard work. I used to think life was easy. Now I have to do the dishes every other day."

### Never Mind!

"You can listen to thunder after lightening and tell how close you came to getting hit. If you don't hear it you got hit, so never mind."

## Science Lesson

The wind is like the air, only pushier. And clouds are just high flying fogs.

Editor's Note: Interestingly, Art Linkletter was abandoned shortly after birth. He was adopted by an evangelical pastor and his wife, John and Mary Linkletter. Thankfully, abortion was not legal at the time of Art Linkletter's birth.

*Special Reports*, an official periodical of Life Decisions International (LDI), is published quarterly. Send changes of address to LDI at P.O. Box 75161, Washington, DC 20013-0161. Comments made herein do not necessarily reflect the views of every member of LDI's Board of Directors, Board of Advisors, or staff. Visit us on the World Wide Web at [www.fightpp.org](http://www.fightpp.org). This publication may be copied so long as it is done in full. It may be quoted so long as proper citation is provided with the quotation.

©2006 Life Decisions International.