



Priceless<sup>SM</sup>  
Parenting

"Online training for  
the most important  
job you'll ever have"

## Priceless Parenting Newsletter May 2009

Dear Parents,

Summer vacation will soon be here along with more free time for our children. What a perfect opportunity for kids to learn new skills! They are a year old than last summer and while they may not be screaming for more responsibilities, summer is a great time to tackle learning some new household skills.

Plan now to teach your kids something new this summer - the perfect antidote to "I'm bored"!

Warm Regards,

Kathy Slattengren

P.S. I hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please do me a favor and forward this to a friend who also may enjoy reading it.

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

### What new skills will your kids learn this summer?

We have until our children are about 18 years old to teach them all the basic skills they'll need to live on their own. Although it sounds like a lot of time, it goes by amazingly fast. Summertime can provide a little more free time for teaching our kids something new.

Children often enjoy helping out in the kitchen. Learning to plan and make a meal is a fundamental skill. Is your child ready to take responsibility for a family meal or part of a meal? Young children may be able to make a simple breakfast (with your help!) and teenagers can typically handle cooking a dinner.

While it may be easier for you to do the cooking yourself, teaching your kids these skills will eventually pay off. When children help with a meal, they also can begin to appreciate all the steps that are involved:

- Picking out the recipes to make
- Going to the grocery store to buy the ingredients
- Putting the groceries away
- Figuring out what to prepare at what time so that the food is done at about the same time
- Following the recipe and preparing the food
- Setting the table

### More About Chores

The sixth lesson in the Priceless Parenting online [parenting class](#) is dedicated to chores - from choosing age appropriate chores to enforcing chore completion.

You can also print out a [weekly chore chart](#):



	Chores
Sunday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/>

On-going daily chores:  
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### Quick Links

[Register for Priceless Parenting Class](#)

[Parenting Presentations](#)

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### Other Resources

- Serving the food

There is a tricky balance for parents between providing help and accidentally taking over what children are really capable of doing themselves. One way to allow your children more control is to tell them you are happy to help if they request your help with something. Then stay out of the way until they ask for your help (but do stay close by in case of an emergency like the oven fire we experienced when our daughter was making a very cheesy pizza!).

Through chores children learn that they are important contributing members of the family. By the time children are about 4-years-old, they are ready to be responsible for some household chores. While it may take more time to teach them how to do a chore than to simply do it yourself, your effort will pay off when they are able to do it on their own.

Last summer our then 12-year-old son learned to pressure wash the deck. He was happy to take on this new task especially since it involved getting wet and getting paid! My husband taught him how to use the pressure washer including all the safety information. It took many hours to get the job done but he stuck with it and we enjoyed a clean deck!

Although we do not pay our children for their daily chores, we do pay them for certain extra chores. It's a great way for work to get done and for our children to earn money for the special things they would like.

One mom told me she is teaching her 5-year-old twins how to do the laundry. Although she still needs to provide some guidance, she remarked that the boys are so proud they know what buttons to push and how to do a load of laundry! Mastering new household skills builds self-confidence in children and starts building appreciation for what needs to be done to keep the household running.

What will your children learn this summer?

### This Month's Challenge: Learning a New Skill

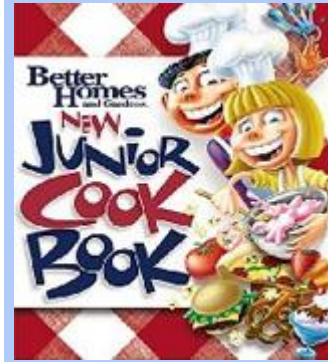
Think about the new skills your children are probably ready to take on this summer. Work with your kids to come up with a plan for learning at least one of these new skills.

I would [enjoy hearing about](#) what new skills your children learn and how it works out!

### Last Month's Challenge: Discussing Death

Last month you were challenged to have a short conversation about death with your children. What did you decide to discuss? How did it go? On-going topics like death will involve many conversations over the years. When your kids know you are open to discussing difficult things like death, they are more likely to come to you with their concerns.

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[The New Junior Cook Book](#) has kid friendly recipes with step-by-step instructions and recipe pictures.

**Follow Kathy online:**

 <http://twitter.com/PricelessParent>

 <http://tinyurl.com/c5g37p>

 <http://www.linkedin.com/in/kathyslattengren>