



*Elizabeth leading Anna
around by the hand*

Am I my sister's keeper?

Monday, July 9, 2007

“Yes.”

“And I take my job very seriously.”

It seems these days that poor Anna has two mothers. I think this is just what happens to a younger sibling. My brothers often told me that they only needed one mother, and that I could continue to be their sister... but I couldn't help myself. I was older, which automatically meant that I knew more and I felt obligated to share my wisdom with them.

Now Elizabeth is only 2, and she is only 13 months older than Anna, but this appears to be the same situation. Elizabeth is very quick and eager to discipline Anna, mostly verbal (we don't allow her to spank her sister!), she will stand close to watch if Anna's hand gets too close to touching something that she is not allowed to touch, or if Anna goes somewhere she isn't supposed to. Elizabeth will tell her “Anna, no touch” and will wait until she has been obeyed. Elizabeth uses the same phrases as I use on her and it is so funny hearing the things that she says. If Elizabeth feels that her disciple is not being effective, I will then hear her calling for backup. “Mommy, Anna's not obeying” and allows me, the true mother, to step in!

Elizabeth provides so much more than discipline for her sister. She also is quick to kiss a boo-boo, or to wipe a tear, or to share a snack. She is just ALWAYS looking out for Anna. If I give Elizabeth something to eat, even before she has finished with her ‘thank you’ she is asking “and one for Anna please”. If she isn't given an extra for her sister, she will share her own. It is nice now that Anna can eat whatever Elizabeth eats... it was more of a challenge when Anna was younger!

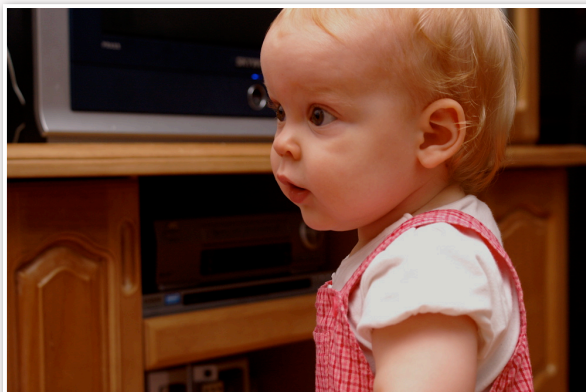
Today for example Anna was fussing about something. I think it was just the typical 1 year old

frustrated kind of fuss... she can't do all that she wants and it frustrates her. Anyway... Elizabeth noticed quickly that Anna was not so happy, and ran off to find a toy. She ran back with a piece of corn (from her kitchen) and handed it to Anna, who stopped fussing. Elizabeth squatted down so she was eye level with Anna and asked her "Anna, are you okay now? Did Elizabeth make it all better?"

Part of Elizabeth's helpful attitude with Anna stems from the fact that Elizabeth doesn't like to be alone. She would MUCH rather play with someone than by herself. There are times she does good entertaining herself - like when she is reading a book. But most of the time she is much more content when another person is nearby. Anna is usually her first choice... although sometimes daddy & mommy win! Anna on the other hand is more of a loner. She has times throughout the day where she gravitates towards the rest of us, but she also treasures her alone time. I have moments when I have to go in search of my youngest daughter! She will try to find hiding spots for a few minutes of solitude. Her favorite place to hide is the pop-up tent in her room. We usually keep the bedroom doors closed during the day to help with cooling the house, but Elizabeth loves to open them (now that she can finally reach)... and once they are opened Anna will go into the room, close the door and just enjoy being alone! She will be sitting in her room, in her tent, reading a book, enjoying the peace and quiet. It usually doesn't last very long before Elizabeth is calling "Anna, where are you?" "Anna, come here!" We are working on teaching Elizabeth to give her sister some space.

I am hoping it will help when baby brother comes along as Elizabeth will have to divide her attention between two younger siblings. Maybe Anna can finally escape!

Most of the time the girls get along really well... but there are definitely moments when Anna decides she *needs* Elizabeth's toy, and catches Elizabeth in a non-sharing mood. We are very curious to see how their relationship will change as they grow. Anna is a 1 year old who has a mind of her own! She knows what she wants, and isn't shy about telling you 'no' if she doesn't want something! But, so much of who Anna is, is shaped by Elizabeth. Anna's words are things that Elizabeth frequently says and Anna loves to copy whatever Elizabeth is doing. They really are quite the pair and we are SO thankful for them both, for all their uniqueness and their similarities!



2 Comments 

Jennifer 

I can't help but think how special these types of posts will be to Anna and Elizabeth as they become older. I find myself asking my mom more frequently about what I was like when I was younger. With her memory, I wish I had a journal like this to go back and read!

Monday, July 9, 2007 - 11:03 PM

Chrissy 

That is just so sweet!

Wednesday, July 11, 2007 - 09:32 PM

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