

Editor's Note



I am blessed with a job that makes me smile. (Not every minute, mind you, or I'd be, say... John Cusack's personal assistant; but, I smile a lot!)

I smile when I open mail containing photographs of the cutest little faces sent by proud parents to be displayed in *Parenting Plus*' photo album. I smile when we receive poems, drawings and stories created by local children. And I smile when I get to read many of the lighthearted and creative articles submitted to us by moms and dads who love what they do so much, they take the time to put it into words.

One of these articles is *Leprechaun Fun* by, Brette McWhorter Sember. (See page 18). Brette is an attorney who decided to give up her legal practice to be at home with her young children. That in itself makes me say, "Wow!" But, then she submits articles describing some of the most hands-on, creative ideas to share with children that make me say, "Wow, what vitamins is Brette taking and can I have some?"

I'm embarrassed to admit this but I was looking forward to the month of March. The mega holidays of December/January along with all the debts and decorations were (almost) completely behind me. The sticky sweet celebration of Valentine's Day and the 5 lbs. of chocolate are also behind me... literally.

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Yes, March, glorious March! No gifts, no decorations, no baking, no cards, no school parties or family birthdays. Ah, March! Or so I lazily thought until I read Brette's article.

Call it a mother's guilt or the realization that my children are not toddlers anymore and soon, they will care less about any sweet celebrations or silliness.

Inspired by Brette's energy and creativity, I am determined to turn my house upside down and create rainbows, switch shoes and socks and make corned beef and soda bread and darn it, I will serve them cereal with green milk on St. Patty's day!

Fun is what you make of it. It doesn't have to be wrapped around a big expense or huge commercial hype. It could just be around a day when the whole world is Irish. And the Altmanns will be Irish and green and silly on March 17th.

A job can be fun if you just see beyond the daily tasks and realize that you still smile and that you are inspired or motivated because of someone's words or actions. Parenting is no different.

So please, go with my obvious zest-for-life moment or sugar high (I did just have a donut). Whatever it is, we all need to celebrate life, joy and childhood. And thank you Brette and to all our family of writers and readers that remind us what really matters... family, community and smiling.

Speaking of smiling. There's nothing like a happy camper. Enjoy our camp guide this year. We strive to let you know all the choices available to find the right summer activities for your child. If we missed a camp that you feel should be in next year's guide, please be sure to let us know.

In the meantime, smile and savor each moment... they're only young once.

Lynda Altmann



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