

Poems, reflecting on parenting, included below:

**Children Learn What They Live,
To My Grown Up Child,
and When You Thought I Wasn't Looking**

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

If children live with criticism,
They learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility,
They learn to fight.

If children live with ridicule,
They learn to be shy.

If children live with shame,
They learn to feel guilty.

If children live with tolerance,
They learn to be patient.

If children live with encouragement,
They learn confidence.

If children live with praise,
They learn to appreciate.

If children live with fairness,
They learn justice.

If children live with security,
They learn to have faith.

If children live with approval,
They learn to like themselves.

If children live with acceptance and friendship,
They learn to find love in the world.

TO MY GROWN UP CHILD

My hands were busy through the day.
I didn't have much time to play
the little games you asked me to.
I didn't have much time for you.

I'd wash your clothes; I'd sew and cook,
But when you'd bring me your picture book
and ask me to share your fun,
I'd say, "Later, we'll have time for fun."

I'd tuck you in all safe at night
and hear your prayers, turn out the light,
Then I'd tiptoe softly to the door...
I wish I'd stayed a minute more.

For life is short, the years rush past...
A little child grows up so fast.
No longer is your child at your side,
no more precious secrets to confide;

The picture books are put away.
There are no longer games to play,
No good night kiss, no prayers to hear...
That all belongs to yesteryear.

My hands, once busy, now are still.
The days are long and hard to fill.
I wish I could go back and do
the little things you asked me to.

Author Unknown

When You Thought I Wasn't Looking

Author Unknown

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator,
and I wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you feed a stray cat,
and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you make my favorite cake for me,
and I knew that little things are special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I heard you say a prayer,
and I believed there is a God I could always talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I felt you kiss me goodnight,
and I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw tears come from your eyes,
and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw that you cared,
and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I looked and,
wanted to say thanks
for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.