

to play with, or you might break it & have no more thermometer!"

13. DADDY SHARED WITH DAVIDITO IN THE GARDEN that he should not pick the green plums & said, "What would you say if somebody came & picked you out of the Family? It's just the same as picking these unripe plums!" Daddy even had a



David operates the "cherry-pitter" machine on his own (supervised, of course!)

little "picture" while in his room of shaking the plum tree real real hard so that the plums that are ripe would fall right off the tree to the ground. When he told Richard & Davidito, they tried it & it worked!--And it sure saved their time & efforts from climbing trees & picking!

14. IT WAS GREAT FUN FOR DAVID WHEN ONE DAY WHILE RIDING THE BIG LAWNMOWER in the backyard it suddenly ran out of gas! David came running into the house acting out the story & begging for permission to go to the gas station with the boys so they could fill up the gas tank. So we told David to pray & be careful & be sure & learn all about it as best he could so he could help teach someone else how to do it someday.

15. ON HIS RETURN, DAVID EXPLAINED EXCITEDLY to me that "they used a sort of pipe to get the gas up & down into the bottle!" I understood that he was talking



David the Driver!

about "siphoning", so then explained to him just how a siphon works & also suggested to the boys that they use proper technical terms when explaining things to David. Sometimes it's easier just to use the correct "big words" when explaining various mechanisms or functions, etc., to children than to try to simplify & explain things in your own words.

16. MARIA HAS ALWAYS ENCOURAGED US TO USE PROPER TERMINOLOGY with the kids. When teaching a small child a "big" new word repeat it several times in a sentence & then alternate the same sentence using the big word & then a smaller word that means the same thing in its word. Daddy warned him once from the garden balcony not to throw the ball near the rose bushes or it may get "punctured". David looked up from the garden below nodding his head as he really understood & repeated the new word several times, as he usually does, then he wanted to go look it up with me in the dictionary!

17. WHEN READING WITH MOMMY ONE TIME HE CAME ACROSS THE WORD "BOUY". Mommy pronounced it "boy" & Davidito piped up saying, "Sara says it's 'boo-ey'." Mommy searched the word in the dictionary with him & found out that both pronunciations are accepted, but hers more frequently used. We really laughed about that afterwards, as sometimes when reading with him, we won't even think he's listening when he will suddenly correct what you are reading aloud.

18. MAYBE SOME BIG PEOPLE DON'T EVEN REALIZE THAT CHILDREN ARE CAPABLE OF



Maria spends special time with David before bed.

LEARNING SUCH BIG WORDS or that kids are even trying to make full conversation with big people, with their questions or comments made at the dinner table, for example. I oftentimes have to call big people's attention to the fact that the children are trying to say something to them or ask for something to be passed to them at the table when they do not acknowledge that the children are addressing them.

19. PEOPLE WHO HAVE VISITED OUR HOME have commented that the little children seem to have quite a place in the conversation at our meals. Of course, we big people have to be careful of the things we choose to converse about at the table in front of the little ones. As Dad says, "Little ears have big pitchers", drawing the example of how a large water



pitcher can take in an awful lot even though it only has a very small "ear", or handle. Be careful what you say, making sure it's edifying for little ears, or at least prayerfully explained to the little children so as to not cause them to stumble.

20. ONE OTHER DAY IN THE GARDEN, the boys were flying a wind-up airplane with Davidito, aiming it high into the air & watching it soar down to the ground. It flew into a very very tall tree, so the big boys began to scurry up the tree & get it for David. Mommy & Daddy saw it from their balcony & warned the boys, "Don't you climb up there! It's far too dangerous! We can buy another little airplane," they said, "but we can't buy another Richard or Alfred!" Davidito gasped in awe about this & we all learned a very good lesson!



Playtime with his "fleet", on the sunny porch!

21. WE LEARNED QUITE A FEW LESSONS, TOO, THIS SUMMER ABOUT ACCIDENTS that can happen while the children are at play. One afternoon, David, almost 21 years old, ate some seeds from a garden weed after Richard had specifically warned her not to. Mommy Maria saw it happen & brought the same type of weed to me, explaining what had happened to make sure I would be informed of David's mistake, & discuss what we should do about it. David was not harmed by this, thank the Lord, but she got a good scolding & didn't do it again for a long time.

22. ON ONE OTHER OCCASION WHICH HAPPENED RECENTLY, she picked some wild flowers from the woods & immediately broke out