

This is Jon Sapper for Community Comment.

My previous Community Comments have covered a range of topics, with none of them talking about family or personal issues. I'm going to break that trend today. My daughter and 18th month old grandson visited last week. It's been a long time since I've been around an 18th month old. Now I know why young people have children. I thought I had a lot of energy, but energy is redefined when it's packaged in a little guy like Kolton. He loved the rubber pasta fork and pie tin. He's in to percussion instruments. And the hanging pots and pans provided the opportunity for a complete drum set.

He's learning to talk and it's amazing how quickly adults pick up on his language. Zoo zoo means crackers and the adults minded dutifully getting a cracker every time he said zoo zoo. "Uh" means up, but you kind of knew what he was wanting because with every "uh", his arms were outstretched while pushing up on his toes. One word was clear..... "no". "No" meant "no", but to make sure you understood, every time he said "no", he would shake his head. I have to admit, even "no" was kinda cute. I didn't remember it being cute when my children were young.

My daughter taught him sign language to say "more please" when he was 11 months old. I didn't know you could do that. He formed a little triangle with his 2 fore fingers and 2 thumbs to say "more" and then swiped his hand across his chest to say "please". He was especially good at this when I fed him ice cream. Smart kid and good priorities.

I couldn't help but think about the world he will inherit 25 years from now. Will he get a good education and be able to freely choose his life's work? Will he need to serve his country because we haven't

figured out how to live in a peaceful world? Will he curse us for saddling him with a country so full of debt that his freedoms and flexibilities are all but gone?

It frightens me that my generation is very likely going to leave Kolton a country in worse shape than we inherited it. What a sad commentary that would be. If we want to give our children and grandchildren a better world, it will take work. Hard work. But it can be done.

Volunteer in your favorite youth program. Help a child learn how to read. Mentor a youth who is exploring career possibilities. If you don't have time to spend, donate dollars if you are able to do that. There are many opportunities for you to help build our next generation.

When Kolton and his mom went home the house was a total mess. I couldn't have cared less. I put it all back together and can't wait till the next visit.

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