

It's A Spooktacular Time of Year

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PUMPKIN FESTIVAL | 2011

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FIND THE GREAT PUMPKIN | LIVE MUSIC | HAYRIDES
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SINKLAND FARMS

Visit our website for special events throughout the season, plus our weekend music line up!
www.sinklandfarms.com

2011 VINTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Fall Festival

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 8TH
10am-4pm

Downtown Vinton

www.VintonChamber.com

Parent-in-Training

You are not alone in this thing called "parenting"

WRITTEN BY Decca Knight



A Steep Climb

Sometimes I feel like the "Little Engine that Could." In moments of in-decision, masked anxiety, and incessant fear, I remind myself that "I can." At least, "I think I can." I think I can be the model parent. I think I can raise a responsible, intelligent, self-sufficient, kind, funny and confident kid. But, when I think of all that responsibility, on MY shoulders, my steep accent starts to slow. I get weary and unsure.

I mean, if anyone can do it, I can. Right? I have a Masters degree in counseling and I had great parents. But does this mean that I know what I am doing? Does this mean that I should be an expert?

This "expert" term scares me! It means that my armor should have no breaks. It means that my kid, my angel, should be the epitome of grace. But, I realize, as my adorable three-year-old is screaming full-volume in the library about a book he found, that this "expert" role carries too much pressure, too many expectations.

So, I shirk this expert role for the role of a "parent-in-training," doing the best I can each day with my kid. That is all that any of us, as parents, can hope for. We can educate ourselves about different parenting techniques, learn from more experienced parents, and seek advice from loved ones. With our "caboose" full of knowledge, we can feel assured that we can slowly and steadily traverse the mountainous obstacles in our future... or so we hope!

Decca is a wife, mother, counselor, and parenting educator. In an effort to further help kids and parents, Decca began studying the Love and Logic Parenting® philosophy. She teaches classes to other "Parents-in-training" and runs Blue Ridge Parenting LLC. www.blueridgeparenting.com



bella finds



Costumes Just for You

Looking for a fun, yet comfortable, group Halloween costume? We love these tank dress costumes from TV Store Online. They're easy, affordable, and absolutely adorable!

www.tvstoreonline.com



Braced-Lets

Meet the newest kids' jewelry craze-braces aren't just for their teeth anymore! BRACED-LETS are fun, durable and wearable bracelets for all ages. CRAFTED-LETS are fun, durable and wearable bracelets for all ages, crafted entirely out of real orthodontic materials. Colorful, stretchy power chains are accented with metal brackets and contrasting elastic rubber bands and are designed to be mixed and matched, creating countless individual fashion statements. Collect, trade and share - hop on the power chain and BRACE YOURSELF!

www.bracedlets.com



Ruffle Butts

Based in Charlotte, NC, this line of fun and frilly infant and toddler girls' line has more than 20 different colors and fabric options. Their claim to fame is the ruffle packed diaper cover; made from 100% cotton, they easily slip over diapers, are machine washable, and provide hours of playtime fun in perfect comfort. Even sweeter, for the entire month of October, the funds for every pink woven bloomer sold on their website will be donated to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

www.rufflebutts.com

