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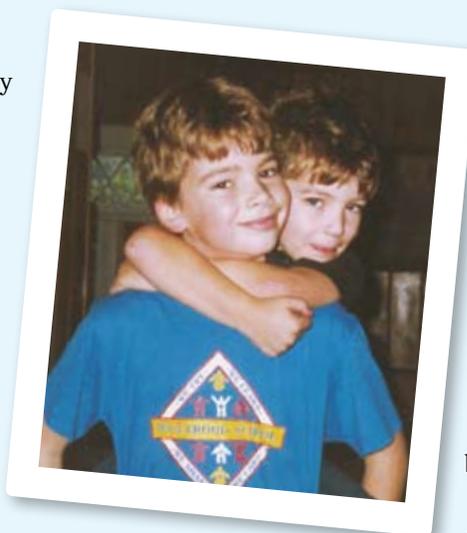
## As Time Goes By

As I'm writing this, it's mid-July – and yet another summer is barreling past in a blur of sun screen, barbecues and air-conditioned movie theaters.

I have a theory about why time seems to fly as we get older – and I'm sure this isn't an original thought. When you're 3 years old, 12 months is a HUGE chunk of your life, representing a full third of your existence. But when you're, well, middle-aged, 12 months is a blip on the radar, maybe two or three percent of your total time on the planet. No wonder it feels like the calendar has wings.

Because I didn't have kids until my mid-30s, I was well into the "tempus fugit" phenomenon during my children's youth. While I typically find personal wisdom in short supply, I somehow knew that I would wonder later on whether I'd spent enough time with my young children, whether I'd really enjoyed them as cooing infants, babbling toddlers and mom-is-the-center-of-my-universe preschoolers. Because I figured that I'd later mourn the passing of their childhoods, I made a point of writing in my journal about this, assuring the older me that would later read those pages that I had, indeed, enjoyed every stage of their lives.

In fact, as the years have passed by, I've found myself declaring confidentially and regularly in my journal that *this* chapter of my kids' development is, truthfully, my favorite. While I found their baby years exhausting, the sleep deprivation seemed a small price to pay for the privilege



My kids are pictured here during their early elementary school years – definitely one of my favorite periods of their childhoods.

of being a mom. Toddlerhood had its drawbacks – again, many were the simple physical demands – but 2-year-olds are so darned cute! And the preschool and early elementary years brought some (much needed!) time for myself while I was still the hub of their burgeoning worlds.

My kids are both teenagers now and never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd say that their adolescent phase would be

my favorite time with them. But it is. I love their evolving adult senses of humor and their idealistic outrage at political developments. And while a toddler's hug is pure heaven, a teenager's, because it's so unexpected, may be more so.

My point is this: Whether your child is literally taking her first faltering steps or she's figuratively making the leap from adolescence to adulthood, you'll never regret any of the hours you've spent connecting with her and enjoying who she is *right at that moment*.

Because time flies, you know?

- Marie Sherlock, Editor  
[editor@metro-parent.com](mailto:editor@metro-parent.com)



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