“He’s suffering from burnout, Mrs. Witt. Try buying him a toy that isn’t educational.”

20/20 Hindsight
A parent called me because her child had said I wouldn’t let him go outside until he went to the eye doctor and got glasses. Bewildered, I asked the child to repeat what he heard me say. He replied, “You told me I could not go outside to play unless I had super vision!”

Marlene M. Johnson, Aspiring Principal
Lake Mills Community School
Lake Mills, Iowa

It Ain’t Where It Should Be
One of my first-grade autistic students was intensely studying my face and labeling various aspects of it. He first said “chin” and then “glasses.” As he came to the top of my bald head, he said with a perplexed and inquisitive look, “Hair?”

Scott Ebbrecht, Principal
Mark Twain Elementary School
Westerville, Ohio

Silence Is Golden
A kindergartner was in my office for an infraction and I was determined that my words were going to change this little girl’s life. She tried to interrupt but I talked right over her. When I was done, I asked her what she had wanted to say.

Mike Look, Assistant Principal
Harrison Road Elementary School
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Time for the Next Lesson
Two weeks into the school year, an energetic kindergartner boy told his mother, “Hey, Mom, today they taught me how to read; I think tomorrow they’re going to teach me to drive!”

Lowell W. Biller, Principal
Washington Elementary School
Kingsport, Tennessee

That’s What You’re Here For
During bus duty, a first-grade student approached the art teacher and asked “Do I have art class today?”
“Who is your teacher?” asked the art instructor.
“You are!” said the student.

Lisa Thomas-Wright, Aspiring Principal
Blackhawk School District
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

We need more stories! We’re looking for humorous anecdotes about school life like the ones you’ve read here. Include your full name, title, and address and send your favorite stories to bkesner@naesp.org. If any of yours are published, we’ll send you a copy of the magazine and a pencil that says “I’m a funny principal!”

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