

Too Little

John stood in the front yard of his house with his older brother and sister. John's brother, Matt, picked up a football. He was going down the street to play with his friends. "Do you **think** I could come with you, Matt?" asked John. "I want to play football, too."

"You're too little, John," Matt answered. "You can play when you're older."

Just then John saw his sister, Emma, looking up into a tree. Her kite was tangled in a branch. "I'll help you," John said. "I **know** how to get it down."

"No, John," said Emma. "You're too little to climb the tree. I'll get it."

John went inside the house. He found his dad in the kitchen. John looked at his dad sadly. "I'm too little to do anything," John complained. "Whenever I want to do something with Matt or Emma, they say I'm too little. When will I be big enough to do stuff like the big kids?"

Dad had a **thought**. "Hey, I have to fix the kitchen sink today," he said. "Will you be my special helper, John?"

"OK, Dad!" John exclaimed.

Dad started fixing the sink. "Will you hand me my wrench, John?" Dad asked.

John handed his dad the wrench. His mom walked in the door. "Hi, John," she said. "What are you doing?"

"I'm **learning** how to fix the sink," John replied.

"That's great," Mom said. "Then you can teach me. I need an **education** in how to fix the sink. That way, I'll be able to fix it the next time it clogs and the water can't run through the pipe."

"Hey, John, I need your help again," Dad said. "Do you see this space behind the pipe? My hand is too big to fit in this tiny space. Can you fit your hand in there and turn the wrench for me?"

"Sure, Dad," said John. He reached into the small space and turned the wrench. "I did it!" he exclaimed.

"That's great, John," Dad said. "You know, being little can sometimes come in very handy!"

"Yeah, maybe being little isn't so bad after all!" John said.

COMPREHENSION Which words tell about the ways that people learn and think? What helps John realize that being little is not so bad?



You're Never Too Young to Dial 9-1-1

When someone needs help right away, it is called an emergency. An emergency could be a fire. It could be a car accident. It could be a time when someone gets very sick or hurt.

As a kid, you may **believe** that you're too young to help in an emergency. Think again. It is important for you to **understand** that you can always do something to help. All you need is some basic **knowledge** and information.

The most important thing you can do in an emergency is to find a telephone. When you find the telephone, dial 9-1-1. When you dial these numbers, someone will answer the phone. This person is called a dispatcher. The dispatcher will ask you to tell about the emergency. Try your hardest to explain what the problem is, and answer any questions the dispatcher asks you. The dispatcher will listen to your answers. Then he or she will send someone to help—the police, the fire department, or an ambulance. Do not hang up the phone until help arrives.

One girl named Paige was only four-and-a-half years old when she helped in an emergency. Her mother lifted something heavy and hurt herself. Her mother was too hurt to reach the phone. Paige was the only other person home. She **remembered** that she could help by picking up the phone and dialing 9-1-1. She also remembered her address and was able to tell the dispatcher where she lived. Soon, an ambulance came to Paige's house to help her mother. Everyone was glad that Paige had the **idea** to dial 9-1-1.

You should never dial 9-1-1 if there is not a real emergency. Remember to ask yourself first if someone needs a grownup's help right away.

Dialing 9-1-1 is the first and most important step you can take to help in an emergency.

COMPREHENSION What is something you could do to help in an emergency? What words about thinking did you hear in this passage?

