

Dad's Video About Lovably 'Weird' Toddlers Is Spot-On

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One dad's TikTok skit about the very specific and "weird" things toddlers demand is striking a chord with parents.

"You think your child is normal until you have to explain to a sitter your child's routine — and then you quickly find out how weird your child is," Jeremiah Shaw says in the video.

"For toddlers, it means absolutely everything to get their way," Shaw, a dad in North Carolina, tells TODAY.com.

Shaw, whose son is 2, posted a [TikTok video](#) with almost 2 million views, captioned, "He'll be asleep in five minutes if you nail these instructions."

Shaw's skit is a hypothetical example in which he debriefs a babysitter before an overnight stay with his child.

"He already ate, so it's just bath and bedtime," Shaw told the fictitious sitter. "Now, with the bath, make sure you fill the tub all the way up, but then crack the drain a little bit and let the water continue fizzling out because he likes to use a cup — make sure his cup is in the bath. He likes to use a cup to fill up the water and then just continue dumping the water out, filling it up, dumping it out. Make sure the water continues fizzling. Make sure you do *not* plug the drain. If you do, it's over with."

Shaw narrated his son's sleep schedule.

"Now for bedtime, he likes having a baby binky and a big green binky — it can't be two of the same," Shaw said in the video. "It *has* to be one of each. He likes to suck on one and the other, he likes to tap his nose with it. It's a soothing thing, I can't explain it, just do it, OK? If he has two of the same, it's over for you."

Enter the boy's 'Cars' fixation.

"Occasionally, he likes to go to sleep with Lightning McQueen, so if he grabs Lightning McQueen and he goes to bed, you also need to make sure you have Doc (Hudson), and you have Sally (Carrera) on standby because he knows them three go together," explained Shaw in the video. "Have you seen 'Cars' before? You haven't? This may not work."

Then come the leaf blowers.

“He’ll usually want to hear a story about a leaf blower — but he wants it to specifically blow certain things such as goose poop, baby rocks — not regular rocks — ... but you cannot assume which one is blowing,” advised Shaw. “Just ask him which one he wants the leaf blower to blow.”

Shaw continued: “He also wants the leaf blower to be a certain color but you cannot assume what the color is because if you do when you get it wrong, it’s over with, alright? So he essentially is going to tell you what he wants the story to be about — you just have to deliver it.”

“Outside of that, it’s pretty simple,” concluded Shaw in his skit. “I’ll see you in the morning.”

Shaw’s toddler isn’t the only “weird” one, according to TikTok.

- “Under no circumstances do you stop singing or switch songs when his eyes start getting heavy! I made that mistake once and had to start all over.”
- “Mine has three toothbrushes. You have to ask which color he wants and then hide the other two or he’ll brush three times and then have a meltdown because ‘teeth not working.’”
- “My son wanted to nap with a Zip Tie the other day. I feel you.”
- “My mom asked ... ‘How do I get her nails cut?’ I had to explain that she’ll only let you cut her nails if you play Michael Jackson videos. But if you play ‘You Rock My World,’ she’ll be way too excited so you have to play ‘The Way You Make Me Feel.’ She’s 6 months.”
- “Mine has FOUR blankets he has to sleep under. They HAVE to be in the correct order or else he will refuse to lay down.”
- “He’ll eat bologna and cheese sandwiches any time of the day but mustard on one side and mayo on the other. American cheese only and it has to go on the mustard side (yellow and yellow). Bologna can only go on the mayo side. Sandwich HAS to be cut in a diagonal, not four triangles, not straight down the middle. He WILL have a meltdown and/or starve if it’s made any other way.”

Shaw tells TODAY.com that he just hired a new babysitter.

Preparing the sitter for his son’s love of “Cars” — the original movie, *not* the sequel, and the toys but *not* the clothing or accessories — along with the intricacies of “leaf blower” story time was, frankly, in their best interest, he says.

“We are trying to give her a heads-up,” says Shaw.

Why Are Toddlers So ‘Weird’?

“Toddlers don’t have filters and they aren’t at all self-conscious about being ‘weird,’” [Deborah Gilboa](#), a family doctor and resilience expert, tells TODAY.com in an email interview. “They don’t try to conform to any norms so they say what they think and how they feel. They live in their truth, every second of every day.”

According to Gilboa, toddlers are “desperate” for autonomy and agency: “Whatever they can have control over, they will take it — and they usually do that by freaking out if you don’t let them have it.”

Gilboa says parents unintentionally contribute to their toddler’s picky ways.

“We share our children’s routines because we’re also trying to exert control,” she says. “We want things to go as well for our kids and for the sitter ... but we also want to protect *ourselves* from the discomfort of someone else running the show.”

However, says Gilboa, kids are adaptable to new environments. As a TikToker wrote: “As a nanny, I hate to tell you this: They usually just go to sleep, no problems for us. A lot of the time, the special instructions only pertain to Mom and Dad.”

Are parents “giving in” to toddlers by tolerating their quirks?

“It depends — if it feels like kids are running the house, it might be a struggle later,” says Gilboa. “I would tell parents: Your kid’s feelings are 100% their own but their behaviors are co-owned, so be sure to provide structure and boundaries.”



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