

THE LAST WORD

Gems Overheard in the Children's Room

By Barbara Conroy Flynn

Like many of you, I work in a world dominated by children and books. It's a terrifically crazy world, and at times, overwhelmingly filled with cuteness. Read on for some great examples of things overheard in the children's room.

- As the seven-year-old Tiger Scouts are leaving, the Scout leader says, "What do we say to Ms. Flynn for helping us tonight?" One little guy says, "Thank you. And you are pretty. And cute. For real." (Not to be confused by the boy in the group who, when asked by me if he had any questions about working in the library, asked, "What do you make?" I replied, "Just like your Dad would say about his job . . . not nearly enough.")
- Overheard by a mom with a crying little girl upon exiting the children's library: "She hates being the last girl to leave the party. I hope she outgrows this before her twenties!"
- I found a little boy a book with a bunch of pictures of kittens in it, as he requested, and his response was, "Wow. This is so great. Thank you. I might die."
- You know you are yawning too much when a three-year-old walks up to your desk and says, "Miss Barb, is you tired?"
- Mom and little girl are counting out pennies out loud; girl counts out loud: "17 . . . 18 . . . 19 . . . 50!" Mom says, "No sweetie, 20 comes after 19, not 50." Girl says, "But I like the sound of 50s better than 20s!" *As do I, little girl as do I. When talking money, it's never too early to start choosing fifties over twenties!*
- Just heard a wee one say, "At the library, it is so much fun here." But when Dad said they could come every day, she responded, "Not EVERY day; that just seems kind of silly."
- As a boy was looking at some wooden blocks, he asked his Dad what to do with them. Dad told him to use his imagination. His response? "Oh, I left that at home."
- A little girl told me she was "going to color her snowman purple, because he probably gets tired of being just white."



Barbara Flynn, Children's Librarian at the Norwin Public Library in Irwin, Pennsylvania, is grateful to have a job in which she is paid to not only buy books, but share them with families, read to children, and enjoy her daily dose of overwhelming cuteness. Although she is Miss Barb to most of the community, she is most proud of being "Mum" to grown sons Dan and Tim. She prefers fiction to non-fiction, and always hopes for happy endings. Favorite books in the library? Picture books. And "The Big Tidy-Up" by Norah Smaridge was the first book she remembers absolutely adoring.

Got a great, lighthearted essay? A funny story about children and libraries? Books and babies? Pets and picture books? A not-so-serious look at the world of children's librarianship? Send your Last Word to Sharon Verbeten at CALeditor@yahoo.com.