

IDAHO DADS MATTER!

A Specialty Publication Featuring Idaho Parents

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The Work-and-Play Dad

...He Teaches His Son Timing and Balance

SANDPOINT—Two-year-old Granger likes playing toy cars with his dad on the living room floor. “His first word was ‘car-car,’ Robert explained. Another favorite game is tricking his mom.



“Right before bedtime we sometimes hide under the sheets from mommy (Cassandra Watters)—after bath and family time. I’ll say, ‘Okay, it’s time for bed,’ and then Granger will look at me and say, ‘Daddy, Shhhhhhhh!’ which is my cue to listen intently and then say, ‘Mommy’s coming, mommy’s coming!’ and then we’ll quickly run upstairs and jump on the big bed, put some pillows over us and hide under the sheets,” Robert explained, and mommy eventually finds them.

“Being a part of your child’s education as they grow up is important; education instilled with playtime is especially good—sort of a combination of ‘work hard, play hard’ kind of thing,” he said. “If you work hard at school, then you get to play hard after school; it’s ‘Alright we’ve been working hard today, now

let’s play.”

Granger’s dad makes sure he’s around to interact. “I just want to make sure I answer any question he has,” he said. “We are able to make sure that in the morning we have family breakfast and have family dinner every night.

Asked what advice he’d offer other dads, Robert said this: “Plan ahead as much as you can, but there are always going to be things you don’t plan for unexpected things that happen—and you can’t fear the unknown. Always respond happily—always respond in a positive way because your children haven’t seen the world as you have yet. As a dad, make sure your child has a beautiful vision so it’s up to them to choose how they see the world without you interpreting the world for them.”

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— Robert Watters