

IDAHO DADS MATTER!

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The Interested Dad

... Gives His Children Time and Attention

POCATELLO—Scott and Jackie Wood’s sons Tristan, 11, Joshua, 6, and Samuel, 2, like going places with their



parents. “Samuel gets the stroller, and Joshua rides on my shoulders,” Scott said warmly. Samuel likes watching a show (or) playing with toys. He follows me around and stands by me when I do the dishes.”

Joshua loves LEGOs. “He creates stories with lots of (LEGO) characters. He runs around the back yard and plays on the swing. Usually, he’s with me while I’m trying to get work done outside,” Scott explained. “They all play ball together, and Joshua especially likes playing with his older brother.”

Tristan reads books and plays Minecraft with his brothers. “They like to have me watch them play because sometimes it’s frustrating for them to figure some things out. I have Minecraft as well, so I can help them out when they get stuck. It makes you feel like a super parent when you can show them how to

do something in the game,” he said with a chuckle. “Then they’ll be like, ‘Wow, that’s so cool! Can you show me how you did that?’”

Asked to describe things that a good dad does, Scott Wood said letting kids know their feelings are real and valued is important. “You can’t say, ‘Kids’ feelings are not real.’ I think that love is shown through different ways...including spending time with them. You need to know them, talk to them (and) share with them, not just *saying* your interest, but sincerely *showing* your interest,” he said.

“I have come to realize that I need to be a parent to my kids and not a friend. I’m responsible for them; it’s not about them liking me. It’s about doing what’s right. For example, doing the chores around the house: Yeah, my kids would like me better if I did the chores (and) it would be easier for them. But I need them to grow up and learn to do all these chores,” he said. “I expect them to help make things clean while we take care of them, C.S. Lewis said, ‘*Love is something more stern and splendid than mere kindness;*’ it’s not enough to be a fun parent. We need that ‘stern’ stuff too,” Scott said. “We need to take care of our kids by loving them.”

**“Don’t
just say
your
interest,
show your
interest.”**

—Scott Wood