



Most Smartest Mommy ITW

Any question answered by someone who's heard it all

By Kelli Wheeler

Darn that elementary school education. It's making me look bad.

I'm finding as my children get older and more educated, their contemplative questions are getting a little harder to give simplistic answers to. At least not quick off the cuff answers inspiring impressed awe and reverence at my supreme intelligence.

To be honest, sometimes I'm just too tired or distracted to go into a detailed explanation and back history of why God makes carrots orange. Sometimes, occasionally, okay—more than I'd like to admit, my funny bone kicks in and I can't resist trying to pacify them with a spontaneous droll or silly response.

I know I'm not doing my kids any favors with answers like "because all the other vegetable colors were taken, sweetie." Or after stifling a laugh, "Of course Daddy's not the boss, honey. We just let him think he is."

Especially when my eight-year-old son and six-year-old daughter nod

in satisfied acceptance and then run off to share their great knowledge with their friends. But it makes me smile and warms my heart that they are still content inhabiting an innocent simplistic world where all the demystifying answers to life's intricacies can wait.

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So, I've had to adjust a little to retain my crown of Most Smartest Mommy ITW (In The World). I've come to find it's all in the delivery. If I see the slightest hint of doubt or disbelief to my answer, I just say with conviction and finality, "It's true. But don't ask Daddy because it'll

just make him feel bad that he didn't know it."

Before I know it, my kids are going to want the straight skinny, but until it is time to groom them for a more serious and complex world, I'll continue having a little fun with them.

Heck, let's all have a little more fun with the questions that weigh heavy on our minds. Below you'll find a sampling of some of life's greatest ponderings and the liberating responses I can provide you as Most Smartest Mommy ITW.

Why do I have to go to bed so early?

Brain cells start to die off after 8 p.m. if you're not asleep. You want to stay smart, don't you?

Then why do you stay up past 8 p.m.?

Mommy is so smart, she can stand to lose a few brain cells. Twenty years of education is like money in the bank and I'm just spending the interest.

How can I get my kids to eat healthier?

By getting Mom to eat healthier. Put down that double-foam mocha latte with four pump vanilla syrup woman. Getting it with low-fat milk isn't setting any better of an example.

How do we end the Iraq war?

Just send everyone back to school. Peace and quiet replaces constant conflict and everyone learns to play nice.

What's the weather going to be like today?

It doesn't matter, you still need a sweatshirt.

What causes a long potty-trained child to wet the bed again?

Freshly washed sheets.

Should I invest in stocks or bonds?

You should buy stock in Target, McDonalds, Kleenex and Band-Aid. Mothers everywhere are raising that stock daily.

Why do I have to eat everything on my plate?

The food party in your stomach can't start until the guest of honor arrives. The healthiest thing on your plate is always the guest of honor.

What's the best way to get stains out of my kids' clothes?

Serve less ketchup.

Is there really a God?

Have you ever watched a sleeping child? Some of Her best work.

What should I pay for my child's allowance?

You should continue to *allow* them to eat your food, *allow* them to live in your house and *allow* them to be a part of the family and contribute their help.

Parent continued on page 65

What is the capital of California?

“C” according to my 8-year-old son.

When should I have the birds and the bees talk with my kids?

Right after you realize you should have told them sooner.

Why do we have to do homework?

The greatest success stories are told by those who have done their homework.

Why don't motorists drive more courteous and safely?

Have patience with them, they are probably late picking up their kids.

What do I tell my child who has just found out the tooth fairy leaves big bills for their friend's teeth and they only get a dollar?

Their friend must have a lot of cavities and the tooth fairy is spotting them the cash for the dentist bill.

Who should I vote for for president this election year?

Whoever you believe can play nice in the big sandbox of life.

To submit a burning question you'd like brilliantly answered or offer some of your own nuggets of wisdom to share in another Most Smartest Mommy ITW installment, please visit Kellimwheeler.com and click on Contact Me.

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