



From the brilliant mind of
KAYLIE SHEPPARD

SHEPHERDING THE SHEPPARDS

• raising two boys in the heart of unwalkable suburbia •



WHAT'S NEW FROM KAYLIE:

WHEN YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW GIVES YOU GOLDFISH: MAKE LEMONADE

Making the best of a
bad situation, or: how
I learned to love a
surprise fish.

ESSENTIAL OILS IN THE BEDROOM

How a drop of chili
seed essential oil can
spice up your intimate
life.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IS MAKING A COMEBACK!

Why you don't want
to miss this retro
trend.

When Your Mother-In-Law Gives You Goldfish: Make Lemonade

JULY 13, 2023 || KAYLIE SHEPPARD (ADMIN)

Hey mommas! It's been a while since I've posted. Life has been hectic; a family member passed away recently, and I can't say much more than that because the circumstances have been deemed suspicious by authorities. But you know I'd never let you down, so here I am with a brand new post!

It's carnival and fair season, and you know what that means - a lot of you are going to be welcoming unexpected or unwanted aquatic guests into your home. Chances are, you'll find yourself caught off-guard when your mother-in-law volunteers to take your kids out for a trip to the carnival and tells them yes *sweetie, you can get the goldfish, Mommy will say yes*, even though you've had this conversation before and you made clear the answer was no, but she makes a point to overstep your boundaries anyways. It happens to the best of us! Although that's never happened to me. **Here's how to spin a frustrating situation into a teachable moment for your kids - and why a fish might actually be a blessing in disguise.**

TOP FIVE MISTAKES ALL NEW BOY MOMS MAKE

Be the best boy mom with these invaluable tips. Spoiler: #2 is mom-son bonding through urinal training!

(PERSONAL UPDATE: HE'S NOT CHEATING? PART IX)

(PERSONAL UPDATE: HE'S NOT CHEATING? PART VIII)

I HIRED A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR. HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Tips on handling extramarital issues, with or without your spouse's cooperation.

OPINION: BOILING HOT DOGS IS CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

LADY UP: TRADITIONAL FEMININITY AND RECLAIMING YOUR IDENTITY

I tried Modern Mom, Traditional House's One Week challenge. Here's what I learned about being a woman.



All pets are a gateway to teach your child about **responsibility**. When it comes to fish, in my experience, the child's responsibility will consist of feeding at regular intervals. A word of warning: if your little one isn't familiar with fishy friends, it's best to establish sooner rather than later that fish don't need to be walked! Harvard studies show that walking your fish can actually decrease its lifespan considerably, so discourage this behavior from the get-go if you don't want to be a regular at the pet store.



If you've got clumsy kids like mine, fish are great for **developing fine motor skills and spatial awareness**. One gallon of water can weigh up to 8.34 *pounds*, and that's not even taking into consideration the bowl! Cleaning up a gallon of water and one fishbowl worth of shattered glass is a surefire way to discourage future household horseplay, and simultaneously exercises precise finger control.

Feeding fish is a **numeracy lesson** just waiting to be taught! Fish will die if not fed, but - and here's where it gets tricky - they will also die if overfed. Use this built-in mechanism of reinforcement to get your little one to practice their counting! The life-and-death stakes add an additional layer of motivation and enrichment.

**(PERSONAL UPDATE:
HE'S CHEATING? PART
VII)**

**KAYLIE REVIEWS: SEX
TOYS ADVERTISED
UNDER VIRAL TWEETS**

Number #4 , 7, and 8
will shock you!
(UPDATE: Several
product recalls have
been issued due to
electric hazards.)

**OPINION: THE METRIC
SYSTEM**

**REUSING TAMPONS:
AN ECO-AWARE
PRACTICE**

**TIKTOK DANCES:
RELATING TO YOUR
KIDS**

My picks for the
TikTok dances you
need to know, and
how to "throw it back"
with your family.

**(PERSONAL UPDATE:
HE'S CHEATING. PART
VI)**

**DO YOU WANT TO
MAKE \$500 A DAY
WORKING FROM
HOME?**

Drop me a message
through my Contact
Me form, and I'll teach
you how to build your
own business.

I'm a big believer of integrated learning, so we incorporate daily fish-feeding into Jaxxon's homeschooling regimen. Within three weeks he was able to count to five. Expanding on this method, we've been able to teach him to count up to 53 (and he's more than halfway to getting 54).

Not bad for an eleven-year-old!

A fish tank provides an opportunity for your children to **learn about the environment**. A one-gallon fishbowl opens a child's eyes to the beautiful and unique habitats of animals around the world, like the common goldfish's stunning natural environment of hot pink gravel, sharp plastic plants, and chlorinated tap water.



My favorite thing about our fish is that they **mind their own business**. They don't bark or meow, they don't root through your kitchen, and they don't leave their business all over the place. (To save time, we've been potty-training Jaxxon and Nayvee together, and take it from me: if there's an opportunity to cut down on how much bodily waste you have to deal with, grab it and hold on tight!!)

For the interior designer in you: It's no secret that fish are an **eye-catching way to accessorize your space**. Thanks to decades of industrial-scale fish inbreeding, you're able to mix and match from a wide array of colours and shapes (provided you get a choice which one your meddling mother-in-law brings home).

HOW TO STAY WOKE (FOR PARENTS OF TEENS)

All the lingo you need
to sound like you're in
the know.

MOTHER-IN-LAW FROM HELL: UPDATE

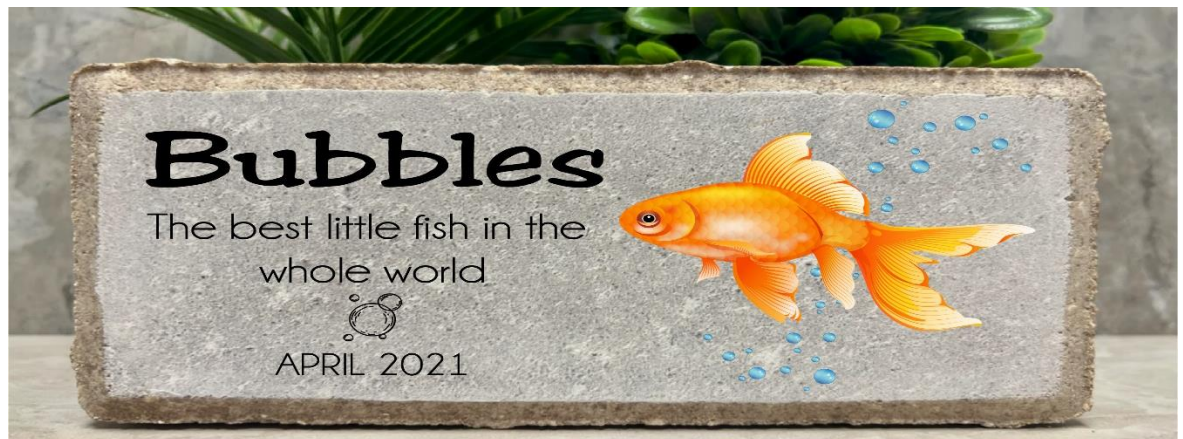
On the legal front: the
attempted murder
charges have been
dropped.

IS MY CHILD GAY? AND OTHER WORST- CASE SCENARIOS

(PERSONAL UPDATE: I
THINK HE'S
CHEATING? PART V)

*In the past, I've faced pushback for my choice to mix and match
saltwater and freshwater fish, but I stand by my morals. I'm all about
biodiversity and equality.*

Aside from being ornamental, fish can **save you thousands on therapy!** Many sources preach the therapeutic benefits of fish tanks. They have been clinically proven to have a calming effect, thereby reducing anxiety. I can personally attest to this - my children watched our fish swim in his tanks for hours to soothe themselves in another room, while me and my husband dealt with an extremely stressful situation. Thanks to the fish, we were able to handle CPS without any interference from the kids, and the officers left in record time. After this harrowing incident, I found myself watching the fish to calm down. They really grow on you!



Did you know that goldfish can grow over 12 inches long, and live over 10 years long? (Neither did I!) Fish are a natural pick for when you decide **your children need to face mortality**. When your fish inevitably dies of neglect because they want a pet they can touch, or when little Goldie leaps out of his bowl and plunges into the hardwood below, you'll be able to come together to mourn the tragically short life of your treasured pet. Goldfish are a great way to practice experiencing loss as a family, so when your mother-in-law succumbs to a sudden onset of illness, your kids understand that she, too, has been flushed to a better place. •