

If you give a toddler a cookie, he's going to want another one ...

With all respect and great affection to the classic children's book "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" by Laura Numeroff and Felicia Bond ...

If you give a toddler a cookie, he's going to want another one.

If he wants another one and you don't give it to him, he's going to throw a tantrum.

If he throws a tantrum, his big brother might decide to give him a shove.

If his big brother gives him a shove, he's probably going to decide to shove back.

If he shoves back, he's going to start a bit of a wrestling match.

If he starts a wrestling match, eventually someone's going to start crying.

If someone starts crying, chances are both of them will wind up in "time out."



DOUBLE TROUBLE

If he's in "time out," the toddler will probably start looking for something to do.

If he's looking for something to do, he might see if he can reach that pack of crayons on the shelf.

If he can reach that pack of crayons, he's going to look for something to color.

If he's looking for something to color, he might decide that bit of wall looks pretty bare.

If the wall looks pretty bare, chances are he'll decide to decorate it.

If he decides to decorate it, eventually Momma's going to notice.

When Momma notices, the crayons are going to vanish for a while.

When the crayons vanish, he's going to go look for something else to do.

If he looks for something else to do, he's going to find his brother.

When he finds his brother, chances are giggling will ensue.

If the giggling continues, Momma's going to check on them.

When she checks on them, she's going to find two little boys jumping on the bed.

When she finds two little boys jumping on the bed, she's going

to tell them to stop.

When she tells them to stop, the older one is going to argue.

While the older one argues, the toddler will wander off again.

If the toddler wanders off, he's going to look for something else to do.

If he's looking for something else to do, he might decide to climb up on the stereo speaker to look at the DVDs.

Until Momma arrives and tells him to get down.

When Momma tells him to get down, he's probably going to go find his train.

Which will occupy him for a while.

When he's tired of his train, he's probably going to try to find something else to do ... like mess with his brother's new music player.

If he messes with his brother's

new music player, his brother is going to emerge from his room to take it away from him.

If his brother takes it away from him, he'll probably have a good, old-fashioned toddler meltdown.

If he has a meltdown, he'll be ignored until he can calm down a bit.

When he calms down, he'll probably go to Momma for a kiss and a hug.

Which he'll get.

All is well.

And then he's going to want another cookie.

(Based on actual events in the Keppeler household last week. Spring can't come fast enough for these stir-crazy boys.)

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