

The Big Brother List

By Jane McBride
(Based on a true story)

Andrew's little sister, Samantha, kept playing with his things.

"Why can't she leave my stuff alone?" he asked Mommy.

"Samantha is still little. She is still learning," Mommy said. "But she loves you."

He knew that. But it didn't make him feel better. He was tired of sharing.

Andrew got out his crayons. He drew a picture of his grandma's cat. Then he went to find Mommy.

"Can I send my picture to Grandma?" he asked.

"That's a great idea," Mommy said.

When Andrew came back, Samantha was coloring on the picture too.

"You ruined it!" he yelled.

Samantha started to cry. Andrew felt sad. He didn't mean to make her cry.

"I'm sorry," he said to Mommy. "But I'm tired of being a big brother." He felt like crying too.

Mommy gave Andrew a hug. "I'm sorry she drew on your picture. Being a big brother can be hard. I'll talk to Samantha about not touching your things without asking. And maybe we could also write down some things you

like doing with her. Then when you're upset with her, you can do one of the things on the list."

Andrew thought about it. Then he nodded.

Andrew and Mommy worked on the list together.

I like playing with Samantha.

I like letting her use my toys sometimes.

I like it when Samantha hugs me.

I like reading books to her.

Andrew finished his list. Then he gave Samantha a hug.

There were lots of good things about being a big brother! ●



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