

NOISY NUTS

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"The ideal neighbor is the one who makes noise at the same time as we do."

- Unknown

My youngest seems to thrive on noise; making noise is her specialty. She loves to hear her own voice, which would be great if only our neighbors didn't live in such close proximity to us. I imagine that at six o'clock in the morning when my daughter is banging on her play guitar and shouting out her favorite song, our neighbors are inventing new curse words.

Telling the little angel to quiet down because people are trying to sleep [um ... me, too] only makes her turn up her noise. Not only that, but a playful smile and laugh follow. If I want to put a pillow over my head, I can only imagine that our neighbors want to do the same ... but hold it there until there is complete silence. Respect our neighbors, I'm always telling her. It's not nice to wake everyone up. I'd try reverse psychology and say, Make as much noise as you want, but I fear it won't bring the desired results.

This winter hasn't been easy. The snow, ice and cold left us grounded way too much and more than a little stir crazy was I. Give me warmth and sunshine any day over being stuck inside on a winter day with a little one who needs room to roam and explore, and of course, make sure her vocal cords are still functioning. She's part girl and part dog. The dog part wants to make a mark in every corner of the house and uproot anything in her way. She likes to knock things over and then just scatter away, or if she feels like it, rip up paper into tiny shreds, all over the damn place. All she wants to do is eat and eat, but instead of putting her on a leash to go outside and relieve herself, I simply command, 'Get thee to the bathroom quick. Please!'. This also provokes a big smile and laughter. I'm either the funniest mom in the world, or the little one is taking me on a crazy, nutty ride.

Either way, sometimes I join in on the noise, banging the drums to various hip songs that make me smile and laugh. Hey, if you can't stop it, you might as well get some enjoyment out of making noise. I used to like the quiet until it became too quiet. Then, I liked noise, lots of it, because it kept me awake and focused. Now, I just want a balance of quiet and just enough noise that I feel conscious. Is that too much to ask?

I like when my neighbors are noisy. It makes me feel less guilty about my own noise machine, a/k/a little darling angel. When I hear my neighbors banging doors or yelling at each other, I feel like rejoicing. They're alive! They haven't gone into oblivion, never to be heard from again. Little One didn't run them off or make them totally insane. Actually, they might be insane, I don't really know for sure. But, I'll give them the benefit of the doubt. After all, they haven't left nasty notes under the door, and for that, they must be good people who understand that little ones will always do the opposite of what you want them to.

Little One takes karate class two times a week. Her teacher is tough, but knows how to relate to a bunch of little ones all at the same time. This bunch always does what they are instructed to do and there's never any whining, crying, screaming, or throwing objects across the room. Okay, there might have been one incident, but that's all forgiven and in the past. I want to package up a replica of karate teacher and set him free when my house becomes a crazy, nutty noise machine.

Earplugs are a waste of money, as they do nothing to sedate me when flying objects, little tiny pieces of paper, and a pre-schooler wiz past me on a super charged tricycle. I'm always worrying, will her next stunt be an attempt to fly off the bed? What if her bike has a head-on collision with the wall? No, Little One demands my full attention. Why, I've even learned how to sleep with one eye wide open.

The ideal neighbor is not only noisy at the same time as you, but has a wicked sense of humor, as well. After all, noisy chatter can drive most people insane, but those who can laugh when all hell breaks loose are real keepers.

Make no excuses if your house is over run by noisy nuts. Someday when it's completely quiet, you will simply go nuts.

Enjoy it while it lasts.