

Let Me Help

What a day I've had! I know I don't make my bed perfectly every time, but it's hard for me to reach the middle of my bed. And sometimes I can't get the covers even no matter how hard I try.

I wanted to help you out this morning so I fed Charlie. I managed to pour the whole bag of dog food on the floor all by myself. Why are you so upset? Charlie won't have to be fed for a month. Aren't you proud of me?

I know you told me not to walk on the pansies, but I wanted to surprise you and show you I can help you garden. It's too bad the weed that needed pulling was at the back of the flower bed.



There's water on the floor? Where? You think I did it? I didn't do it. I've been standing here washing dishes like you told me to. So I couldn't possibly have done it.

What I Want You to Know

I like to help you. I love trying to do the things I see you do.

I wish you wouldn't get so mad at me when I make mistakes. I'm really just trying to make you happy. I don't mean to make so many mistakes. It just happens sometimes. I'm trying to do my best, but I'm pretty new to all this stuff. I need your help learning how to do things. It may even take me years to learn how to do some things.

Here's How You Can Help Me

Give me jobs that I can handle. *Show me how* you want them done. Even before I am capable of doing them, demonstrate for me and explain to me how we feed the dog and when we make our bed.

I also need *gentle reminders* of what to do, when to do it, and how to do it.

Appreciate my efforts even when they are not perfect.

Sometime I may want to help you but you're afraid I'll be in the way. Please *find a way I can help*. If you don't want me to help you cook on the stove, let me wash vegetables or wipe the counter tops.

I will learn the most from watching you. Tell me about the helpful things you do for other people. It will be easier for me to learn how to be helpful if I grow up watching you being helpful.

Do you think you can help me until I get the hang of all this?

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating

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