

WHAT DOES A CHILD SEE?

by Cheryl Wilcox

Have you ever been in a hurry, or mad, while looking for something you can't find? Then, when you calm down, you find it right where you were looking? Ever walked by someone you know and not recognized them?

With our busy lifestyles we become close-minded, focused, and only see what we want to. Maybe if we took the time to look at the whole picture with an open mind, our perspective would change.

Maybe if our parents didn't tell us "There is not a monster under the bed", "Nothing is in the closet" or "There is no such thing as a ghost" our views of reality would be different.

A child is born innocent and believes what it is taught. Between its parents, family members, and society, the child learns what is acceptable and what is not. We teach children to believe in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, which do not exist, but which are well intentioned and "socially acceptable" lies.

We raise them to follow a particular religious faith, but cannot support its teaching and claims of the miraculous with anything approaching certainty. Why then, can't we be more open to learning from our children?

Maybe ghosts reveal themselves to children because their energy is pure and happy. My friend's daughter has seen and described a ghost at her grandparents' house many times. He was "a man with a hat, red shirt, blue pants and no feet." She was 3 and 4 years old at the time. Other people on the street claim to have seen him and describe him the same way.

When she would point him out however, no one present could see him. This could suggest the possibility that some of the "imaginary friends" of our children are really ghosts. Maybe a ghost that is lonely or trying to communicate to, or through, the child.

Children eventually close their minds to these phenomena because we will tell them to "grow up and stop being silly, no one is there."

Wouldn't it be great if we could be more accepting and open to the possibility of the paranormal, and encourage our children to explore a little more?

Tonight we should put down the fairy tales and help our children keep their minds open and receptive. Talk to them about that monster under their bed, or the spooky thing they believe is in the closet, or the ghost that they just saw walking by.

What scares you more - your child learning to accept and explore the possibility of the paranormal... or having their world defined by watching Barney?

