# Economics professor’s viral parenting hack turns kids’ complaints into lessons in responsibility



Chelsea Lensing, an economics professor and mother of two, has recently gained attention on social media for her unconventional parenting technique aimed at reducing complaints from her children during car journeys. In a viral TikTok video posted on April 26, Lensing shared her “crazy” hack to counteract the familiar cries of “Mom, I’m bored!” or “Mom, I’m hungry!” from her young ones.

Lensing suggested a unique approach: turning the responsibility back to her children. For instance, when her three-year-old daughter expresses hunger, Lensing replies, “Oh, did you bring a snack?” Similarly, if thirst is mentioned, she prompts, “Hmm, did you bring your water bottle with you?” Clarifying her intent, Lensing stated, “I promise I’m not letting my kids go hungry. They’re very hydrated, well-fed kids. This is used in very specific scenarios.”

Her strategy hinges on encouraging self-awareness and accountability in her children. Before leaving the house, Lensing often prompts her daughter with questions such as, “Do you want to bring a snack or a book for the car?” If her child does not take the initiative and later expresses regret during the journey, Lensing allows the natural consequences to provide a learning experience.

The results, she claims, have been fewer complaints and an increase in responsibility, sometimes leading to realisations from her daughter. Lensing recounted an instance where her daughter became upset for not bringing a doll along for a trip. When reminded of her oversight, the child concluded, “Next time, I’m going to bring a doll, too.”

Not all viewers are convinced by her approach. Some TikTok users commented that while they appreciate the strategy for older children, it may not be suitable for toddlers, with one user stating, “I love this concept at the age of 5. Three and under does seem a little insane.” Another added, “3? That’s a baby.”

In contrast, some educators have praised Lensing’s method, recognising its value in promoting accountability among young children. One teacher expressed gratitude for the approach, noting how it quickly becomes apparent when children lack responsibility in their lives.

Lensing’s technique is not the only innovative parenting hack to emerge recently. Deb Goddard, another mother of two, has also shared her method for getting her toddler to fold laundry. Goddard captured the attention of her followers with an Instagram post featuring a foldable board made from cardboard. The board, designed with numbered flaps, guides the child on how to fold various items, making the task seem more like a fun game.

While Goddard's method has garnered significant likes—over 1.5 million—responses to her hack have been mixed. Some parents have commended the creativity, while others have derided it as akin to child labour, with one person commenting, “Seriously? The kids have their entire life to be folding laundry. Give them some toys, get down on the floor and play with them instead.” Another critic referred to it as “Temu factory training.”

As these innovative parenting techniques circulate in the public sphere, they highlight the diverse perspectives on child-rearing practices, sparking debate among parents and educators alike about the balance between fostering independence and nurturing playfulness in children.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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