

# The Mess on the Floor

Benjamin West was just trying to be a good babysitter for his little sister Sally. While his mother was out, he found some bottles of colored ink and proceeded to paint Sally's portrait.

But by the time Mrs. West returned, ink blots stained the table, chairs and floor. Benjamin's mother surveyed the mess without a word until she saw the picture. Picking it up, she exclaimed, "Why, it's Sally!" And she bent down and kissed her young son.



In 1763, when he was 25 years old, Benjamin West was selected as history painter to England's King George III. He became one of the most celebrated artists of his day.

Commenting on his start as an artist, he said, "My mother's kiss made me a painter."

The story demonstrates how positive and affirming interactions with others can significantly impact their lives. Often, the small things we do become powerful lessons along the journey of life.

And what a challenge to raise our children according to God's standards, knowing when to say, "It's a mess!" and when to say "Why, it's Sally!"

– Beecher Hunter