

Evan Eisenberg

No Primate Left Behind

National Geographic recently wrote about the Dikika Baby, a toddler “from the dawn of humanity” whose discovery “holds clues to the origin of childhood.” We unearth her school record:



**L'il Warthogs Preschool and
Day-Care Center**

23 Leakey Road, Awash, Ethiopia 02233

Student Progress Report

Date 12/14/3,296,993 B.C.



Student	Class
<i>Dikika Afarensis-Greenbaum</i>	<i>Purple Room</i>

Category	Level
Physical Development	1 2 3
• Stands and walks erect	1 2 3
• Is mostly naked (without fur) on chest and back	1 2 3
• Uses precision grip when gathering roots, berries and Cheerios	1 2 3
Cognitive Development	1 2 3
• Grunts and gestures effectively in class discussions	1 2 3
• Avoids saber-tooth cats, hyenas and paleontologists	1 2 3
• Would recognize self in mirror if mirrors existed	1 2 3
Social Development	1 2 3
• Grooms well with others	1 2 3
• Shares termites, grubs and scavenged carrion	1 2 3
Emotional Development	1 2 3
• Occasionally displays abstracted expression, indicating either awareness of mortality or need to go pee-pee	1 2 3

Key: 1) Approaches expected development level 2) Meets expected development level 3) Exceeds expected development level

Teacher Comments:

Dikika has made excellent progress this millennium. Although she has not yet mastered articulate speech, her repertoire of grunts and hoots continues to grow. Her posture is good, but she sometimes lapses into knuckle walking when she thinks no one is looking! Her grooming skills are above average, and she is often the child others turn to when troubled by lice or ticks. Her tool use is age appropriate, and we are confident that in another million years or so she will be setting grass fires and making simple lingerie out of antelope pelts. Dikika is a bright and very social hominid, and it is a pleasure to have her in our class.

Earlie Salassie

Teacher's signature

Lucy Afarensis

Parent's signature