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The DOWNTOWNER

# Randy's Ramblings...

## Listen Closely

Since school is back in session, I am reminded of the following poem which still adorns the bulletin board at the LCNFC. Mary Jo Roberson, a Lincoln kindergarten teacher, shared this with us in 1996.

*On Monday, Billy didn't have his homework  
And when the teacher asked why,  
He said, "Because a monster ripped it up,  
After I told him a lie."  
"Now Billy," said the teacher,  
"You know monsters don't exist,  
And if you don't turn in your homework,  
No recess you will get."*

*On Tuesday, Billy had a stomachache,  
And when the teacher asked him why,  
He said, "A monster took away my dinner,  
Even my cherry pie."  
"Billy, I've told you once before,  
Monsters are not real  
You'll have to wait till lunchtime  
Before you get a meal."*

*On Wednesday, Billy had a bandage,  
Which covered his right eye.  
When the teacher asked him how it  
happened,  
This was his reply:  
"A monster was running after me  
When I ran into the door."  
"Billy, please," the teacher said,  
"I don't want to hear any more."*

*On Thursday, Billy refused to sit down,  
And when the teacher asked him why,  
Billy said, "A monster whipped my  
bottom,  
Because I started to cry."  
"Billy," said the teacher, "this is getting  
out of hand,  
And if you continue with these stories,  
In the corner you will stand."*

*On Friday, Billy didn't come to school,  
And when the teacher found out why,  
She said a little prayer to God  
In hopes Billy would survive.  
For a monster had beaten Billy  
And threatened him with a knife.  
Now Billy lay in a hospital bed,  
Fighting for his life.*

*So teachers please remember,  
That monsters are for real.  
Listen closely to the kids' stories,  
A wounded heart you may heal.*

*From "Teaching K-8"*

**We all—parents, educators, caregivers and neighbors—must continue to remember how precious our children are and never, ever take them for granted.**

~ Randy Allman

*Building tomorrow's neighborhoods... TODAY!*  
THE DOWNTOWNER is a monthly newsletter for the Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center. Our office is located at 1039 Sycamore St. See our enclosed calendar for the activities and programs that you or your family might be interested in or jump online at [www.lcnfc.org](http://www.lcnfc.org). Please call the LCNFC at 379-1630 for additional information.

