

slide 1

old. Should I sign you up?

JOSHUA. Would you need a deposit?

MRS. HEATH. Two hundred dollars. Non-refundable. *(Joshua and Geneva look at each other ... a fast, whispered negotiation — Yes? No! Yes?)*

JOSHUA and GENEVRA. We need to talk it over.

MRS. HEATH. Of course. But we do have two other families coming in this afternoon. If they should sign up — *(Josh and Gen have another feverish discussion ... then ...)*

GENEVRA. We really need to talk it over. Come on, Mac. Mommy and Daddy are waiting. It's time to go!

MRS. HEATH. Are you on some other waiting lists?

JOSHUA. Well, for "Bright Ideas."

MRS. HEATH. *(Laughs.)* I meant anywhere realistic.

GENEVRA. Actually, we're next on the waiting list.

MRS. HEATH. Really? You might get in?

JOSHUA. We got on the list three years ago.

GENEVRA. Josh went straight from the delivery room to sign Mac up.

MRS. HEATH. Damn. I couldn't get my kids in there.

GENEVRA. Well, we haven't either yet.

MRS. HEATH. Well, "Sunny Days" pre-school is a wonderful welcoming environment for children. Your son included. We may not be the "Bright Ideas Early Childhood Development Academy," but —

JOSHUA. *(Looking out.)* Should there be that many kids on that slide?

MRS. HEATH. Oh my. That is a mob.

GENEVRA. Mac, look at all the kids behind you — give them a chance. Come on down!

JOSHUA. Come on, buddy. My little man! Slide to Daddy —

MRS. HEATH. Terrence, Jackie, is that a good choice to climb up there with so many other —

GENEVRA. The extra weight —

MRS. HEATH. *(Overlapping.)* Terrence, you're a very big boy —

JOSHUA. The plastic — it's buckling —

MRS. HEATH. Kids! That may not be a good choice —

GENEVRA. Oh God!

JOSHUA. The slide's collapsing! *(Gen and Josh charge off.)*

MRS. HEATH. Bad choice! Bad choice! BAD CHOICE! *(She charges off too. A huge horrible crashing sound ... Lights shift and*

— end

start

when they begin

GENEVRA. Josh, he's up at the top — he shouldn't be at the top —

JOSHUA. That is a pretty tall slide for a pre-school —

MRS. HEATH. But we have the soft-give surface, see? Like landing on a firm pillow.

JOSHUA. From that height?

MRS. HEATH. We're fully insured. Have you looked at many other schools in the area?

JOSHUA. All of them.

MRS. HEATH. Oh. We were last on the list?

GENEVRA. He's scared to slide down — *(To Mac.)* You can do it, hon. Come on ...

JOSHUA. The other kids are piling up behind him, it's not fair, I'm going to —

MRS. HEATH. I just hope he doesn't feel like a failure. *(Joshua stops ... then ...)*

JOSHUA. Come on, Mac, you can do it! Slide! Come on! Come on!

GENEVRA. Slide, Mac! Come to Mommy and Daddy!

MRS. HEATH. We still have one slot left this fall for a three-year-