

GPS for Parenting

By Dana Ailer

Fin's school offered something called Santa's Shop this year. For \$2 per gift, each student gets to "shop" through a room of gifts for men, women, children, and pets. This morning I sent a short list of family members for Fin to buy for and \$8. When I picked her up at the sitter this afternoon, she was wearing a long blonde wig.

ME: "Where did that come from?"

FIN: "Santa's Shop."

ME: "You bought a Christmas gift for yourself?"

FIN: "No, it's for Granddaddy. We're going to share it."

ME: (getting angry) "You did not buy that for Granddaddy! You bought that for yourself. We don't buy Christmas gifts for ourselves. That's really selfish. Poor Granddaddy. How do you think he's going to feel-"

FIN: (starting to cry) "But Mommy, it is for Granddaddy! You know; because I feel bad for him since he doesn't have his own hair. I just wanted to try it on."

I really wish there was a GPS for parenting. Because sometimes I just don't know which way to go.