

# UrbanBaby Daily

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September 17, 2007

## The Kindest Cut

First haircuts are often famously met with tears and trepidation. But a prepared parent can help ease a little one's anxiety of lopping off her locks.

Below, expert NYC children's stylist Carole Kimberg (who works her magic at Applesseeds and Pomme), offers tips and tricks for ensuring a successful first snip.

### **Before:**

Find a stylist who has experience with kids. Not every cutter has the patience or skill to deal with small customers. Someone with expertise in kids' cuts can ensure a better result.

Have realistic expectations. A stylist, no matter how talented, can't create a sweet bob out of a handful of uneven strands. Have a conversation about the look you imagine so you're both on the same page.

Bring along a favorite toy or book. It can help comfort your wee one and distract him from the task at hand.

### **During:**

Don't rush the stylist. Some take time to demonstrate their tools, while others speak softly as they snip. But don't expect an hour-long appointment, either. Fifteen minutes (tops) is about all you can expect from a squirmy toddler. Experienced children's stylists know this and can work quickly and efficiently.

If there is a meltdown, let the stylist carry on as best she can. A good kids' cutter can work her magic under even the most disagreeable conditions.

### **After:**

Congratulate your child on a job well done (even if he put in a less-than-stellar performance).

Offer a reward. Some stylists hand out lollipops for a mission accomplished. If you're not sure they will supply the goods, bring along your own treat.

Get Junior into a bath or shower, pronto, to keep him from associating uncomfortable itching with every haircut. Freshly cut ends (especially of the fine variety) can cling to the hair and fall onto the skin for several hours post-trim.