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# If You Need Me I'll Be at the Foosball Table

*by Kristopher Kaiyala*

## advertisement

My son is not yet 2 and already he has a gaming addiction.

So if you phone me and I don't answer, or if you're delivering a package and I don't come to the door, or if it takes me a little longer to answer your urgent e-mail, don't fret. Dad's probably just indulging his son in yet another match at the foosball table.

How addicted is my boy? The other day he took a bath with the foosballs. He often carries all four around (two in each tiny hand) wherever he goes. If he needs his hands for some other task, such as picking up his water bottle, he really has to think for a minute if hydration is worth the cost of setting down his prized possessions.

When we're at the table he stands safely on a stool just high enough to be part of the action. He drops all four balls (that is, when one or more isn't lost somewhere) onto the table at once, making for a kind of foosball road-rally challenge. My job is to send each sphere goal-ward as he screams crazily—and before he can reach down and pluck as many as he can back into his hands. When a goal is scored he raises his hands in the air and says, "Go-oo!" He's still learning to talk. "Goal" may be his first real word. Geez, I admire this kid.

Fortunately he's napping right now so I can get a little work done. But when he wakes up—oops, he's doing so right now—I know what's coming. Not that I'm complaining. It's one more way for us to bond. Just be warned: Don't expect me to get back to you right away.

*Changing diapers all day is dirty business. So is working from home in a house strewn with kids' toys. MSN.com frequent contributor Kristopher Kaiyala—happily married and the proud father of a 6-year-old girl and 1 1/2 year-old boy—tackles the daily joys and challenges of being a full-time at-home dad in this twice-weekly column.*

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