

Amish children begin helping around the house and farm as early as four years of age, and by the age of six, they assume some responsibility. But they do not look upon these chores as hard work, as something to be dreaded or avoided. In fact, they actually look forward to their chores. Anna says her favorite “happy time” activity is feeding the chickens and collecting the eggs.

After changing from her pretty blue dress to her brown “working dress” with its black apron, she dashes for the henhouse. Her little brother and sisters follow close behind. They want to see if the chicks have been delivered.

Even before opening the door, she can hear their high-pitched peep, peep, peeping. “Ooooh!” Anna says when she sees the little yellow bundles of down scurrying around the pen. She lifts one out and gives it to her little brother to hold.