

For many kids, having a bike means the ability to go play further than before, it means going faster, and reaching a milestone. I got my first bike, when i was 7. It was not a gift, i had to earn it.

Not yet

I was raised in Montreal, and although the street we lived on was not super busy, it was still a city street, so kids had to ride their bike mostly on the street, which was not something my parents were too keen on. This means that i didn't get a bike in my preschool years, even one with training wheels.

Get good marks

My mom told me i could get a bike, if i managed to keep a 90% average for my final report card of the year. I was usually getting fairly high marks so it was an achievable goal.

She didn't get it

On the last day of school, i came home with my report card in hand. My mom was on the balcony, watching me walk. I didn't appear to be super happy, or in a hurry to show my report card to my mom so she thought that i had missed that mark.

What is the big deal?

When i came home, i showed my report card, and i had a final mark of 90.5%. Yup, i reached that goal, but why would i be excited? I was happy to have met that expectation, and i knew i was going to get a bike (my parents always followed their promises), so what is the big deal!?

Let's go shopping

I remember that we went shopping that evening, and i got my first bike. It was a CCM brand, and it was blue. I don't think i got training wheels for it, so i had to learn the hard way, but i learned.

Keep going!

I remember one time when i was starting to ride, when my dad holding the bike, and as we were on the walkway, our Italian neighbour decided it was her "private" property (which was not) and she stood in the middle of the way. My dad just whispered "Keep going", and i did. Without too much control over my bicycle, i ran the front wheel right between her legs. She sure was not happy, but my dad was laughing! If you don't know about our "Italian neighbours", check the post on [Bad Neighbours](#). You can have a few chuckles.

How about you? Do you remember the day you got your first bike? Or maybe another toy you got that you had to earn? Share your stories in the comments below.