

# **Children First**

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By

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**“Working with education leaders to keep children first.”**

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### **Why I Love Mom’s**

*Next Sunday, we celebrate Mother’s Day. (Guys, that also includes your wife!), a most fitting tribute to all who achieve the name of “Mom.” I came across the following story and thought it worthy of sharing with you. Sorry I don’t know the source.*

Mom and Dad were watching TV when Mom said, "I'm tired, and it's getting late. I think I'll go to bed." She went to the kitchen to make sandwiches for the next day's lunches. She rinsed out the popcorn bowls, took meat out of the freezer for supper the following evening, checked the cereal box levels, filled the sugar container, put spoons and bowls on the table and started the coffee pot for brewing the next morning. She then put some wet clothes in the dryer, put a load of clothes into the washer, ironed a shirt and secured a loose button. She picked up the game pieces left on the table and put the telephone book back into the drawer.

She watered the plants, emptied a wastebasket and hung up a towel to dry. She yawned and stretched and headed for the bedroom. She stopped by the desk and wrote a note to the teacher, counted out some cash for the field trip, and pulled a textbook out from hiding under the chair. She signed a birthday card for a friend, addressed and stamped the envelope and wrote a quick note for the grocery store. She put both near her purse. Mom then washed her face with 3 in 1 cleanser, put on her Night Solution & age fighting moisturizer, brushed and flossed her teeth and filed her nails.

Dad called out, "I thought you were going to bed." "I'm on my way," she said. She put some water into the dog's dish and put the cat outside, then made sure the doors were locked. She looked in on each of the kids and turned out their bedside lamps, hung up a shirt, threw some dirty socks into the hamper, and had a brief conversation with the one up still doing homework. In her own room, she set the alarm; laid out clothing for the next day, straightened up the shoe rack. She added three things to her 6 most important things to do list. She said her prayers, and visualized the accomplishment of her goals.

About that time, Dad turned off the TV and announced to no one in particular. "I'm going to bed." And he did...without another thought.

Anything extraordinary here? Wonder why women live longer? CAUSE WE ARE MADE FOR THE LONG HAUL..... (And we can't die sooner; we still have things to do!!!!)

## Conversations With Your Children

It is probably safe to say that many parents fall short in their efforts to effectively communicate with their children. To develop a strong communication bond with children demands a strong commitment on the part of parents. More frequently than not, both parents are working. Everyone rushes off to school and work in the morning and conversations are usually brief and more focused on giving orders than meaningful conversation. In the evening, we get a repeat of the same except this time TV, homework, and tired parents slow down meaningful conversations.

Looking for some help to get those words flowing? Why not try the tip I picked up from the Bill O'Reilly Radio Show. He was discussing some parenting tips in one chapter of his book, *Looking Out for You* (a good read by the way). I've added a bit to his tip to give you more options.

The first move parents need to make is to have the entire family sit down together for dinner. For some, that step may require a huge adjustment in habits. Even if you don't cook and purchase food from a restaurant, eat it at the dining room table together. Make the commitment to bring the family together as was the habit in a majority of households when I grew up. During the dinner, use the time to discuss current events or any subject of importance to each family member. Work at this until a real meaningful conversation surfaces. Give everyone the opportunity to speak. That will help you understand what is on the mind of your children. Don't judge the topic; let it be the privilege of each family member to speak on the subject of their choice. Other members have the obligation to participate. Try this and the results might surprise you.

A second option is to ask your children one or all of the following questions:  
*What new thing did you learn today? What was one important thing you did today? What did you do to help someone today?*

Certainly, you can add whatever questions you'd like as a substitute or to be used in addition to one or all of the above. Be sure you use open ended questions avoiding those that can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no."

If these suggestions don't grab you, make your own rules. The point is to engage your children in dialogue. Don't procrastinate. Start the habit early and you just might enjoy some very interesting evenings.

***PS: This will also work with your spouse!***

## Don't Quit

Parenting can be tough. Living through the experience of raising children with your sanity is viewed by some as one of the natural wonders of the world. To help you with a bit of tenacity to see you through this period of your life, I'd like to share the words of this encouraging poem. I don't know the author but his or her words are eternally true.

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes do,  
 When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,  
 When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
 And you want to smile but you have to sigh,  
 When care is pressing you down a bit,*

*Rest if you must but don't you quit.  
Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about  
When you might have won had they stuck it out.*

*Don't give up though the pace seems slow.  
You may succeed with another blow.  
Success is failure turned inside out,  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt.*

*And, you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems so far.  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.*

## Checkout Billy

Billy Arcement, MEd. is one of the premier speakers for business meetings, educational conferences and governmental strategic planning sessions. His work helping school boards make all decisions for the benefit of children is a refreshing change from “business as usual.” He also has quality messages for school administrators, teachers, and business leaders. He blends thought provoking ideas with his “Cajun Stories” to bring audiences a winning combination guaranteed to make your event a success.

His “*wisdom makes a difference*” as he consults with leaders in the business, government and education communities.

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## Some Thoughts To Consider About Motherhood

As we move closer to Mother’s Day, I am recalling the recent rally for Abortion Rights. Certainly this is an emotional issue for women and the subject of much debate in this country. But, think about this statement: *What if your mother had chosen to abort you?*

When I taught Biology, I discussed the origins of humans with my students. A simple union of two living cells—one sperm and one egg—starts the process of human development. *When does life begin?* Please re-read the last statement and pay particular attention to the words, “living cells.” In truth, we are born of living cells so at the earliest stages, there is a living entity. *Does abortion at any stage kill a living organism? What do you think?*

Happy Mother’s Day

## Build Your Success Library

*Searching for Success* is a great book for parents to use to build a strong value system within their children. The content can also help make them better students. Why not

make it part of your training process with your child. Send your \$ 15.00 check now and receive a signed copy in the mail within a few days.

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## Value Added Ideas

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