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The Family Friend

A collection of articles and quotes to aid your family in daily living.

May 2008

PARENT Job Description

POSITION :

***Mom, Mommy, Mama, Ma
Dad, Daddy, Dada, Pa, Pop***

JOB DESCRIPTION :

Long term, team players needed, for challenging permanent work in an often chaotic environment.

Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts on call.

Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities!

Travel expenses not reimbursed.

Extensive courier duties also required.

RESPONSIBILITIES :

The rest of your life.

Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs \$5.

Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly.

Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 mph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf.

Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck zippers.

Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars and coordinate production of multiple homework projects.

Must have ability to plan and organize social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks.

Must be willing to be indispensable one minute, an embarrassment the next.

Must handle assembly and product safety testing of a

half million cheap, plastic toys, and battery operated devices.

Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst.

Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product.

Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

POSSIBILITY FOR ADVANCE- MENT & PROMOTION :

None.

Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you .

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE :

None required, unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

WAGES AND COMPENSA- TION :

Get this! You pay them!

Offering frequent raises and bonuses.

A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that college will help them become financially independent.

When you die, you give them whatever is left.

The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more.

BENEFITS :

While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth, unconditional love, and free hugs and kisses for life if you play your cards right.

Via email

Mama

The young mother set her foot on the pathway of life. "Is the way long?" she asked. Her guide said "Yes, and the way is hard, and you'll be old before you reach the end of it. But, the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So

she played with her children, and gathered for them along the way, and bathed them in the clear streams. And, the sun shone on them, and life was good. And the young mother cried, "Nothing could ever be lovelier than this!"

Then night came and the storm, and the path was dark. The children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle. The children said, "Oh, Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and we know no harm will come." And the mother said, "this is better than all the brightness of the day, for I have taught my children courage."

And the morning came and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary. But at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we will be there." So, the children climbed and when they reached the top, they said, "We could not have done it without you, Mother. And the mother, when she lay down that night, looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage; today I have given them strength."

And the next day came and strange clouds appeared which darkened the whole earth—clouds of war and hate and evil, and the mother said, "Look up, lift your eyes to the light." And the children looked up and saw above them beyond the dark-

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ness. That night, the mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have taught my children God."

And the days went on, and the weeks went, and the years went on and she was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and they walked with courage. When the day was hard, they helped their mother, and when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather. At last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide. And the mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. Now I know that the end is better than the beginning for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates." And they stood and watched her as she went on alone and the gates closed after her. And they said, "We cannot see her, but she is with us still. A mother like ours is more than a memory—she is a living presence."

Maybe that's what being a mother is really like.—pp. 95-97, **Fables For Today.**