

There's only one thing about my husband that really makes me mad. I think he could make a better mother than I am. Of course he couldn't have them in the first place but I think he could handle them after that obstacle was taken care of. Why, I've seen timeshe walked in the door to utter chaos. The children just hadn't acted like my children at all that day. I had lost all sense of humor, all patience and had become a shrew. In no time at all the kids either had kissed cheeks of red bottoms depending on what they were doing and why and whether or not they were caught and, mother has her pep talk. Then everything is fine-for about five minutes at least. On days like this I think ofmy Dad's mother. I can still remember her. She reached the age of seventy and she had such a sweet and kind face with always a smile onit. After raising six kids too! Maybe one of my grandchildren will remember me as having a sweet and kind face.

Speaking of grandparents-my children just happen to have the nicest, most wonderful grandparents in the world. Yes, I even talk that way about my in-laws-on the level too. But the one I couldn't get along without is-youccan guess-my mother. She's wonderful, she's adorable, she babysits. She arrives looking so nice and fresh but leaves looking so nice and bedraggled. She not only babysits but manages to get in a little washing, ironing, mending and what have you besides. She's the wonder woman of the century. In answer to my thank you she always replies, "oh, it was fun." She's either a saint and/or a liar. But she always comes back refreshed and ready for more.

I just couldn't say anything about my family without mentioning Marcie who has come to our house one day a week for the last five years. She's as valuable as my right hand. She cleans each room while the kids go along behind her messing it up again. Late in the afternoon she walks out the door towards peace and quiet saying, "well at least you can say I tried. Its clean underneath." God bless Marcie.

Okay, enough about my family- here are my helpful hints:

1. When the children get their pants on backwards leave them that way- the knees don't wear out as fast.
2. When they stand up in the high chair-tie their shoestrings together.
3. When they first start climbing stairs-look the other way. It will save your nerves for a better crises.
4. When they come to you screaming and lbleeding at the seams don't get upset til you wipe the blood away, then get upset. Blood always makes it look worse.
5. When your baby spits up on you out in public and you smell to high heaven, don't despair. Tell people you are wearing a new kind of perfume just on the market-Canal #5 or if you are in the supermarket stand by the cheese counter.
6. When grandparents give your children too much candy tell them they'll have to pay the dental bill.
7. If you walk out of the door, forgetting one of your children blame it on your pregnancy. If your're not Pg.-getpg. fast.
8. When your kids get into a brawl, don't join in by trying to separate them. Sneak off fast-you'd be surprised at all the laundry you can fold before they get everything settled among themselves.
9. If you ever plan on moving just be sure to look for a place close to a hospital with an efficient emergency room.
10. If all your neighbors have nice green lawns and you can't even see yours for the wagons, trikes, tractors and bikes etc., don't fret- you want your neighborhood to look lived in, don't you?

11. When a salesman comes to the door and one of your children happens to walk out of the bathroom into the livingroom with his pants still down just say, "I babysit with the neighbors kids quite a lot." Then let him draw his own conclusions.
12. When a miracle happens that you get away for a few days with your husband don't waste your time worrying about the kids-worry about the babysitter.
13. If you have a flat tire with all the kids in the car have at least half of them stick their heads out the window. No man that has a heart would pass you by.
14. Don't worry about a robbery taking place at your house. No human could get through that obstacle course of wagon, trikes, tractors, bikes etc. They'd probably think those poor parents couldn't afford anything valuable anyway.
15. When ~~one-of~~ you run out of peanut butter at lunch~~time~~ don't panic. The kids can really live through one day without peanut butter. Mine hve done it at least twice that I can think of.
16. When one of your children wants to join the scouts, don't sigh up for den mother-you have your own den at home. Don't sign up for transportation. By the time you get your own kids in the car there isn't room for anymore. I guess the only thing left is refreshments. You have to make a dessert ~~for~~ your own dinner anyway.

I hope these hints will help in ~~some~~ way. Mainly, keep your head up high, trust in the good Lord and pray that you will live through the teenage years that will come too soon. Who knows-maybe someday your children will rise up to call you blessed.

Mrs. William Dierks Hodes
9415 Manor Road
Leawood, Kansas