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Inspiring Moms To Discover and Create
Their Own Life Journey



10 Things Moms Wish They Would Have Done Differently While Raising Their Children!

By Debbie Franklin, The Generation Mom Expert™

I interviewed over 100 women who were no longer raising their children. These women were working, stay-at-home, and work-at-home moms from all over the world. Some were new empty nesters, and others' children had been out of the home for many years.

Moms are all unique individuals, but we have a strong commonality in what we want for our children: to feel loved and secure, have self-esteem and confidence, and the ability to make good decisions and be responsible and successful in their own life.

We realize being a mom requires sacrifices and we are willing to make those for our children. There are things we wished we would have done differently, but acknowledge we did our best with the skills and knowledge we had at the time.

The top 10 things that moms wished they would have done differently:

- Keeping Our Own Identity:
Making time for friends, date night with hubby, doing things for just “me,” and having interests outside of motherhood were things that moms mentioned the most. While moms wished they would have spent more “in the moment” and one-on-one time with their children, they also wished they would have kept a connection with who they were as a woman. Children growing up and moving out created a great sense of loss and direction and not knowing who they were anymore. Keeping this area alive would have helped more with this transition.
- Life Skills
Moms want to take care of their children, but in hindsight wish they would have taught their children more about taking care of themselves and being responsible and accountable for those choices. They wish they would have prepared them more when it came to managing money, cooking, laundry, and cleaning in order to be more self-sufficient when they moved out on their own.

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- Self-Care

Putting themselves at the top of their “to do” list is not something women are good at. We tend to put others needs ahead of our own, but as we get older we learn the “better I am, the better I serve my family,” because it is true, when mom is happy, everybody is happy.” Women wished they would have taken the time to eat and take better care of themselves.

- Relaxing and Enjoy More

Being a mom is a big responsibility and we all want to do a good job. Sometimes though in trying to do everything right, we missed the fun. Many moms said they wished they would have worried less, relaxed more and spent more time playing and just being with their children.

- Modeling

Actions do speak louder than words. Moms would have been more conscious of “walking their talk.” Children will do what we do, not what we say. It sends conflicting messages when they are told not to lie, but overhear us on the phone telling a “white lie” to someone. We expect them to respect us as adults, but we don’t always respect them as the individuals they are, regardless of their age.

- Trusting Yourself

While the advice and wisdom was appreciated, moms wished they would have followed their own heart and intuition for making that final decision on what was best for their own children. They didn’t always do that and followed what others felt was best and in hindsight realized they should have followed what they felt was right for them and their family.

- Time

The realization of how much of a time commitment it is to having a child was a big eye-opener for many moms, but at the same time, many of them wished they would have realized how quickly the time would go by. They would have spent more time connecting and enjoying the time, instead of worrying so much about the house, yard, as well as having their children involved in so many activities. While at the time they felt activities were important, families that had more than one child felt a lot of family time was lost running from place to place in the different activities their children were involved in. They wish they would have had more family meals together, played more games at home, and spent more time in talking, visiting, and connecting with each other.

- Personal Development

Moms wished they would have understood themselves better. They felt that would have given them more confidence in parenting from an awareness of who they were. In learning about themselves, it would have given them tools and skills to help them to support and encourage their children to discover and be who they were meant to be.

- Communicating

Listening more and talking less was another area that moms wish they would have done better. We are were so busy and didn't consciously take the time to really connect with our children. Listening builds trust in the relationship, which is especially important during the teenage years. Listening gives us the opportunity to get to know who our child really is, as well as gives the child the security they are important and valued because they are being heard.

- Not Have to Work

Some women work because they choose to. The job fulfills them as a woman, in as much as motherhood fulfills moms that choose to stay home. Many moms had to work because of financial reasons; they didn't have a choice. No matter what the situation was, many wished they would have at least been able to stay at home while they were infants. There are so many milestones that happen when they are infants, and it goes by so fast, and they felt this time was lost.

Empty Nest moms, don't need to play all the would have, could have, should have's in how they raised their children. We could only do our best with what knowledge and skills we had at the time.

Younger moms can learn from older moms mistakes, but will still make their own as they go through their own journey of motherhood. It is a wonderful journey, full of wonder as you watch your child grow, heart-ache as you watch them hurt and make mistakes, joy and pride in who they are as the unique individual person that you have brought into this world, and a life-time relationship of mother and child – an eternal bond of love.



Debbie Franklin, The Generation Mom Expert™ is an author, speaker & trainer, wife, and mother to three wonderful children, and Grams to three amazing grandsons!

Debbie offers coaching, tele-classes, e-courses, community membership, online journal, and other resources inspiring moms to connect to their hearts to create the life and family life they desire.

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