

Business Skills that could be learned through Motherhood

When you become a mom, you are transformed. Your instincts are sharpened, your empathy magnified, your focus honed. Maybe these skills are the consolation prize for having a little piece of your heart ripped out, given arms and legs, and sent careening about the world. Or maybe, they're the stripes you earn for the never-ending opportunities for growth that parenting presents.

No matter where they come from, the skills you gain from having children definitely make moms smarter and sharper businesspeople. There has never been a more fickle target audience than a teenage Child. Anyone who's ever tried to get their kid into a decent school knows the process is a fraught combination of cost-benefit analysis, hustle, and networking that can overwhelm you no matter how well you've mastered Excel.

Being a mother stoke your entrepreneurial engine like never before:

Being a mom humbles you.

Whether you spend hours pushing, have to recover from a C-section, or experience the emotional highs and lows of adoption -- having a child forces you to let everything hang out in the open in some way, shape, or form. Your ego never recovers, and in business, that's a great thing. You learn to see your smarter colleagues as assets, not threats. When you say it's a team effort, you actually really mean it (and prefer it that way). And most importantly, fear won't hold you back, because frankly, nothing is all that scary anymore once you've had a kid.

You are a master multi-tasker.

What starts as a parenting necessity becomes a business boon. Many of you might often start your day getting dressed, while quizzing your kids on their vocabulary, making breakfast, reading newspaper, ironing clothes, checking homework folders, and signing permission slips— all at the same time! At the office, it's more of the same. Some days, it's the only way to get everything done. The key is being able to discern when multi-tasking doesn't make sense – like when your kid wants to talk or a decision needs careful consideration. Having that wisdom at the right moment makes all the difference.

We get [stuff] done.

It is said that when you have something to do, give it to the busiest person. That's mom. What you learn as a parent, and benefit from as a businessperson, is not to belabor decisions. Entrepreneurial success is all about action and drive. Your advantage depends on being able to out-execute the competition. And, basically, that's the only way your household doesn't fall apart.

You learn to keep your cool.

Whether you're talking about failures or fantastic achievements, moms can't be swayed, because there are always other people and tasks competing for your attention. The same is true for any executive. There's just no time for self-satisfaction or self-flagellation. Of course, sometimes you have to allow yourself to enjoy the moment and celebrate with your team. And leadership also demands that you be able to assess what went wrong and identify strategies to avoid the same problem in the future. But you also learn how to avoid being stuck in cycles of indecision. One of the biggest advantages motherhood gives you as a businessperson is that not much upsets you anymore. And in today's world, that's kind of like a superpower.

Moms always have a Plan B (and C, D, E...).

Maybe one of the reasons moms are able to keep their cool in the craziest of situations is that, as a parent, you learn to always have another option. Mothers have to change plans so often to accommodate their kids and the household. It would not be wrong to say that being a parent, you get very used to the disappointment of change. To maintain your sanity as a parent, you have to become incredibly flexible and open to the alternative path. The same is true in business.

While reading this article people might think, "Gosh, parenting sound kind of brutal." It is. And it's incredibly beautiful at the same time. Being a women you see new parallels between the challenges that confronts you as a mom and the challenges that confront you as a businesswomen every day. Both are the hardest jobs, but they're also undoubtedly the ones you love the most. Every day, both force you to grow in ways you never thought possible, make you laugh at yourself and your own arrogance, but most importantly they fill you with great pride that you are shaping the people and the services that will make tomorrow better. And that's a pretty great reason to get up every morning.