



## Mother's Dictionary

**Bottle feeding:** An opportunity for Daddy to get up at 2 am too.

**Defense:** What you'd better have around the yard if you're going to let the children play outside.

**Drooling:** How teething babies wash their chins.

**Dumbwaiter:** One who asks if the kids would care to order dessert.

**Family planning:** The art of spacing your children the proper distance apart to keep you on the edge of financial disaster.

**Feedback:** The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

**Full name:** What you call your child when you're mad at him.

**Grandparents:** The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

**Hearsay:** What toddlers do when anyone mutters a dirty word.

**Impregnable:** A woman whose memory of labor is still vivid.

**Independent:** How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

**Look out:** What it's too late for your child to do by the time you scream it.

**Prenatal:** When your life was still somewhat your own.

**Prepared childbirth:** A contradiction in terms.

**Puddle:** A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

**Show off:** A child who is more talented than yours.

**Sterilize:** What you do to your first baby's pacifier by boiling it and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it.

**Storeroom:** The distance required between the supermarket aisles so that children in shopping carts can't quite reach anything.

**Temper tantrums:** What you should keep to a minimum so as to not upset the children.

**Top bunk:** Where you should never put a child wearing Superman jammies.

**Two-minute warning:** When the baby's face turns red and she begins to make those familiar grunting noises.

**Verbal:** Able to whine in words.

**Whodunit:** None of the kids that live in your house!



## My Mother Taught Me...

1. My Mother taught me about **ANTICIPATION...**  
"Just wait until your father gets home."
  2. My Mother taught me about **RECEIVING ...**  
"You are going to get it when we get home!"
  3. My Mother taught me to **MEET A CHALLENGE...**  
"What were you thinking? Answer me when I talk to you! Don't talk back to me!"
  4. My Mother taught me **LOGIC...**  
"If you fall off that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
  5. My Mother taught me **MEDICAL SCIENCE...**  
"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."
  6. My Mother taught me to **THINK AHEAD...**  
"If you don't pass your spelling test, you can't get a good job."
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7. My Mother taught me **HUMOR...**  
"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
  8. My Mother taught me how to **BECOME AN ADULT...**  
"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."
  9. My Mother taught me about **GENETICS...**  
"You're just like your father."
  10. My Mother taught me about my **ROOTS...**  
"Do you think you were born in a barn?"
  11. My Mother taught me about **WISDOM OF AGE...**  
"When you get to be my age, you will understand."
  12. My Mother taught me about **JUSTICE...**  
"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you.... Then you'll see what it's like!"



## Prison versus Housewives

- In prison, you get three square meals a day.
- At home, you cook three square meals a day and try to get your kids to eat it.
- In prison, you get an hour each day in the yard to exercise and mingle.
- At home you get to clean the yard up so you can mow it, so your kids can spread more toys all over it, so that you can go out and clean it again because little Jr. can't sleep without his latest lego creation.
- In prison, you get to watch TV, cable even.
- At home, you get to listen to your children fight over the remote control and get treated to hours and hours of mindless cartoons thanks to cable.
- In prison, you can read whatever you want and attend college for free.
- At home, you get to read weekly readers starring Dick, Jane, and Spot and worry about how to send Jr. to college and still be able to eat for the next twenty years.
- In prison, all your medical care is free.
- At home, you have to pawn your mother's silver and fill out trillions of papers for insurance and hope the doctor will see you before you die.
- In prison, if you have visitors, all you do is go to a room, sit, talk and then say good-bye when you are ready or your time is up.
- At home, you get to clean for days in advance and then cook and clean up after your guests and hope that they will one day leave.
- In prison, you can spend your free time writing letters or just hang out in your own space all day.
- At home, you get to clean your space and everyone else's space, too, and what the heck is free time again?
- In prison, you get your own personal toilet.
- At home, you have to physically hold the bathroom door shut in order to keep from having someone standing over you demanding to know how long till you're done so you can do something for them.
- In prison, they take you everywhere you need to go.
- At home, you take everybody else where they need to go...stop me when I get to the downside of jail, will ya?

## The Evolution of Mom

### *Your Clothes -*

**1st baby:** You begin wearing maternity clothes as soon as your OB/GYN confirms your pregnancy.

**2nd baby:** You wear your regular clothes for as long as possible.

**3rd baby:** Your maternity clothes are your regular clothes.

### *Preparing for the Birth -*

**1st baby:** You practice your breathing religiously.

**2nd baby:** You don't bother practicing because you remember that last time, breathing didn't do a thing.

**3rd baby:** You ask for an epidural in your 8th month.

### *The Layette -*

**1st baby:** You prewash your newborn's clothes, color-coordinate them, and fold them neatly in the baby's little bureau.

**2nd baby:** You check to make sure that the clothes are clean and discard only the ones with the darkest stains.

**3rd baby:** Boys can wear pink, can't they?

### *Worries -*

**1st baby:** At the first sign of distress - a whimper, a frown - you pick up the baby.

**2nd baby:** You pick the baby up when her wails threaten to wake your firstborn.

**3rd baby:** You teach your 3-year-old how to rewind the mechanical swing.

### *Going Out -*

**1st baby:** The first time you leave your baby with a sitter, you call home 5 times.

**2nd baby:** Just before you walk out the door, you remember to leave a number where you can be reached.

**3rd baby:** You leave instructions for the sitter to call only if she sees blood.

## Two Locations

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