

WFWP USA: Why Moms Make the Best Project Managers

Reanne James
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When people say motherhood is a full-time job, it's a way to acknowledge that, as rewarding as the experience may be, it also comes with various tasks and responsibilities. Such responsibilities have blurred the lines between family and work to the extent that one can apply a [professional tag to motherhood](#) with the amount of skill it takes to fully step into this role.

In fact, more and more working and entrepreneurial moms are being encouraged to add their parenting experience to their resumé due to the competencies they've honed while caring for their families. Many of these transferable skills can be brought into the area of project management, so let's find out below what exactly mothers and project managers have in common.

Ability to multitask

Projects have many moving parts, from team members with respective task assignments to budgets, timelines, and resources. In this light, among the [essential skills of a project manager](#), as listed by LHH, is the ability to multitask and coordinate these workflows efficiently. Project managers align the different short- and long-term plans so that targets are met, and stakeholders are satisfied with the results.

Likewise, mothers are adept at juggling multiple tasks, such as caring for family members and tending to their basic needs while still keeping household finances and schedules in check. It goes without saying that this multitasking is only successful when the rest of the team, i.e., other family members, cooperate and support mothers in every task.

Flexible and adaptive behaviors

No matter how detailed a project's plan and timeline are, there will always be unexpected challenges and sticky situations along the way. Thus, project managers must stay flexible, think on their feet, and manage the team even when under pressure.

Similarly, mothers undergo an [adaptation process](#) when supporting their kids at every stage of their development, starting from birth and infancy. They have to learn and develop new adaptive behaviors in response to significant life changes to provide the child with the best care. Additionally, their responsiveness extends to helping other family members affected by the change to better adjust to newness and uncertainty.

Capacity for risk assessment

Project managers are also responsible for pinpointing any potential risks and problems that might crop up during planning and implementation. Beyond using tools like SWOT analysis and a risk assessment matrix, this skill for risk identification can also be intuitive.

Similarly, mothers develop a finely tuned risk radar when they raise kids and communicate with them daily. As a mother herself, [cybersecurity professional](#) Jeanne Quimby shares how talking to her son about abstract art taught her to look beyond what's visible and consider other viewpoints. After bringing the lesson from this interaction into her workplace, she was able to lead and manage cybersecurity projects that address communication risks and vulnerabilities by detecting visibility gaps and anomalous behavior.

Empathetic leadership style

Lastly, while project management can be primarily logistical and task-oriented, managers must still have the capacity to lead with empathy and kindness. Being able to recognize and understand each member's strengths and weaknesses can boost morale and set the team up for success.

As covered in a previous post showing the link between [motherhood and peacebuilding](#), mothers are also able to cultivate empathy by being attuned to their children's needs. Despite painful and challenging moments, family units are able to weather the storm with empathetic and compassionate mothers at the helm.

With all these in mind, it is clear that motherhood can be a great opportunity for women to unlock new skills and improve existing ones. However, we must still empower and support mothers throughout their parenting journeys so they can truly achieve their full potential.

Article written by Reanne James

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President's Corner: Motherhood as the Training Ground for Peacebuilding

May 17, 2023 · Kaeleigh Moffitt, WFP USA President

This month, I find myself reflecting on motherhood and am flooded with memories of my own transition into motherhood nine years ago. Since then my husband and I have joyfully welcomed three children into our family unit, and continue to grow in our parenting. Like most mothers-to-be, I spent many months preparing for motherhood, making sure we had all the supplies we needed and had done all the research required. But just like every first time mom out there, I soon realized no level of preparation could fully equip me for this new role.



Motherhood, while beautiful and profound, is an experience that thrusts you into a fully selfless state. Even during

pregnancy, your body no longer serves you alone, but also the precious life form growing inside of you. When our little ones enter the world they are so helpless and needy. Despite the great efforts of the fathers and grandparents in our lives, most of the time it is the Mother alone who can meet the needs of that newborn baby. These experiences tie us to our children in ways that are impossible to describe. This is what we mean when we say our children are a part of us. We have forged a forever bond that cannot be broken.

I believe this is the way our Creator designed it and why Mothers are such a gift... rather why they are such a force in this world. **From the moment we become Mothers we have been forever awakened to the needs of our children that compels us to serve and love unconditionally.** Although there are certainly painful moments when raising our children, nothing could stop us from loving them from the bottom of our hearts. **This training ground and the experience of motherhood is truly a solution to so much of the turmoil in our world. If the skills of love, patience and perseverance could truly be welcome at the global leadership level, I'm confident many of the problems of our world could be healed.**

Motherhood comes in all shapes and sizes: whether they are with us in spirit, whether they birthed us, or whether they filled that space in our lives. These are the women who formed us, who raised us, who empowered us and who are proud of us. **I am so grateful to have Mothers and Mother-figures in my life, to be a Mother and to be raising future Mothers. Happy Mother's Day to you and your loved ones!**

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