

My Job

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Course: English 101

Instructor: Ms. Ramona Cutrer

Essay Type: Example/Illustration

Three short years ago, I remember sitting behind my desk at the office I managed and thinking how easy my life was about to become. I was pregnant with my first child and planning not to return after the birth. I now laugh that I considered staying at home and raising a family “not working.” The tasks I performed over several years as an office manager do not compare to the tasks I currently perform in my position as a domestic engineer in the Chevalier household. For example, I am now a full time maid, nutritionist, nurse, disciplinarian, and teacher. Not a day passes that I am not reminded of my choice to take on the most challenging job I have held thus far.

My duties as a full time maid begin the second my feet hit the floor. As I bend down to put on my slippers, I also pick up some article of clothing one of my family members dropped the previous nights. On the way to the laundry hamper, I gather as many toys from the hallway floor as my arms will hold and drop them into one of the numerous toy baskets stationed throughout the house. Walking through the living room, I notice the carpets need vacuuming, the bookshelves require dusting, and the windows are covered with little handprints that should be wiped away. However, the housework truly begins as I step into the kitchen. There are dishes to be washed, floors to be swept and mopped, and counter tops to be sanitized. Because the laundry room is adjacent to the kitchen, I see mounds of laundry waiting to be washed, dried, folded, and put away.

Nevertheless, I will have to push these chores aside because my children are now awake, and I must assume the role of nutritionist. I not only have to prepare breakfast, lunch, and dinner, but I also have to provide several healthy snacks throughout the day. Furnishing the daily requirements of vitamins and minerals and ensuring equal servings of fruits, vegetables, dairy, grains, and protein is slowly becoming the most tiresome part of my daily routine.

Usually, I will have my first nursing experience of the day not long after breakfast is completed. My two and a half-year-old almost always either falls from her booster seat, knocks her head on the dining room table, or trips over her brother's highchair and lands face down on the floor. If, by chance, we make it out of the dining area and into the living room without a mishap, I can usually count on my one-year-old, who has recently started to climb, to find all of the non-padded surfaces available. He will inevitably bang his head or land really hard on his bottom on at least one of them. Not all of my medical crises require a bandage. Sometimes I just need to bestow a hug, a kiss, or some tender loving care.

Along with being loving, caring, and nurturing, I also have to be a strong disciplinarian. Throughout the day, my patience will be tried and tested many times over. I will defuse quite a few pushing and shoving bouts and decide who was responsible for starting them. I will have to be firm and not give in to the tears at naptime. Through past experiences, I have learned that without the nap my afternoon will only become more tedious. For each wrongdoing, I must determine the appropriate punishment, whether it be sitting in a time out or taking away a beloved toy. Most importantly, I have discovered that not all negative behaviors require a punishment, and it is sometimes best to overlook them.

Certainly, the most significant role I play in the lives of my children has to be as a teacher. They learn from the games we play, the songs I sing, and the books I read to them. In

addition to schooling them on their alphabet and numbers, I am responsible for preparing them for life outside of our home. I educate them in suitable manners, acceptable conduct, and proper etiquette. I have to be conscientious of the decisions I make throughout the day because my children are constantly observing and learning through my actions. It is my duty to guarantee they become well-adjusted individuals who have the ability to function normally in society.

As nighttime approaches and my children are tucked safely in their beds, I take a minute to sit back and reflect upon my day. After I catch my breath, I realize that although this is the most demanding job I have had in my life so far, it is also the most rewarding. In what other profession would I receive such unconditional love in return for what doing comes naturally to me?

Kelly Chevalier is an Education major.

Ms. Cutrer's Comments: *This assignment was to use examples and illustrations to prove a point, or present an idea. Kelly handled this concept well by using the numerous aspects of a normal day in her life.*