

Elizabeth Nichols

Instructor's Name

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Date

Motherhood

As a parent, I have obligations to my children to feed, shelter, and protect them. And although I strive to provide them with these necessities, there are a few other characteristics that, in my opinion, are essential to motherhood: patience, the ability to understand, and love.

The first characteristic that I believe a mother should have is patience. When I think of patience, I think of tests or trials that push the limits of my endurance. For instance, my children love to annoy me by refusing to make up their minds about which kid's meal to order or what drink to have with it. They also pick on one another and say things like "did too" and "did not," batting the words back and forth like a Ping-Pong ball.

As well as having patience, a mother should be able to understand her children. Mothers should not only understand their children literally, but they should also try to understand why the children behave the way they do. Children become very frustrated when the parent doesn't understand them. For example, when my youngest son was three, he had a problem pronouncing the sound for "f." It took me awhile to notice this because I misunderstood what he was trying to say. For example, when he wanted to talk about a "fox," I assumed he was talking about "socks," and he got very upset with me. On the other hand, we, as mothers, should try to understand what motivates our children so that we will better know how to respond to them. For instance, one night, we were having sandwiches for supper, and my youngest decided he wasn't hungry. My oldest wanted seconds, so I told him to eat his brother's sandwich. My youngest

then snatched up his sandwich and threw it out the door. His motivation was selfishness because he didn't want his brother to have the sandwich, and if I had realized what the problem was, I would have avoided a confrontation.

The most important characteristic of motherhood, even more so than understanding, is love. We show our love in a variety of ways. For example, my children just can't understand why they have to wear life jackets while they are swimming. They don't realize that I enforce that rule out of love and fear for their safety. Another example would be when we kiss our children's "boo boos." A mother's sympathy, along with hugs and kisses, is a better first-aid cream than any on the market.

My children continually test my patience in just about everything they do. They also show me new ways of seeing or understanding their behavior, and I give them all the love I can.