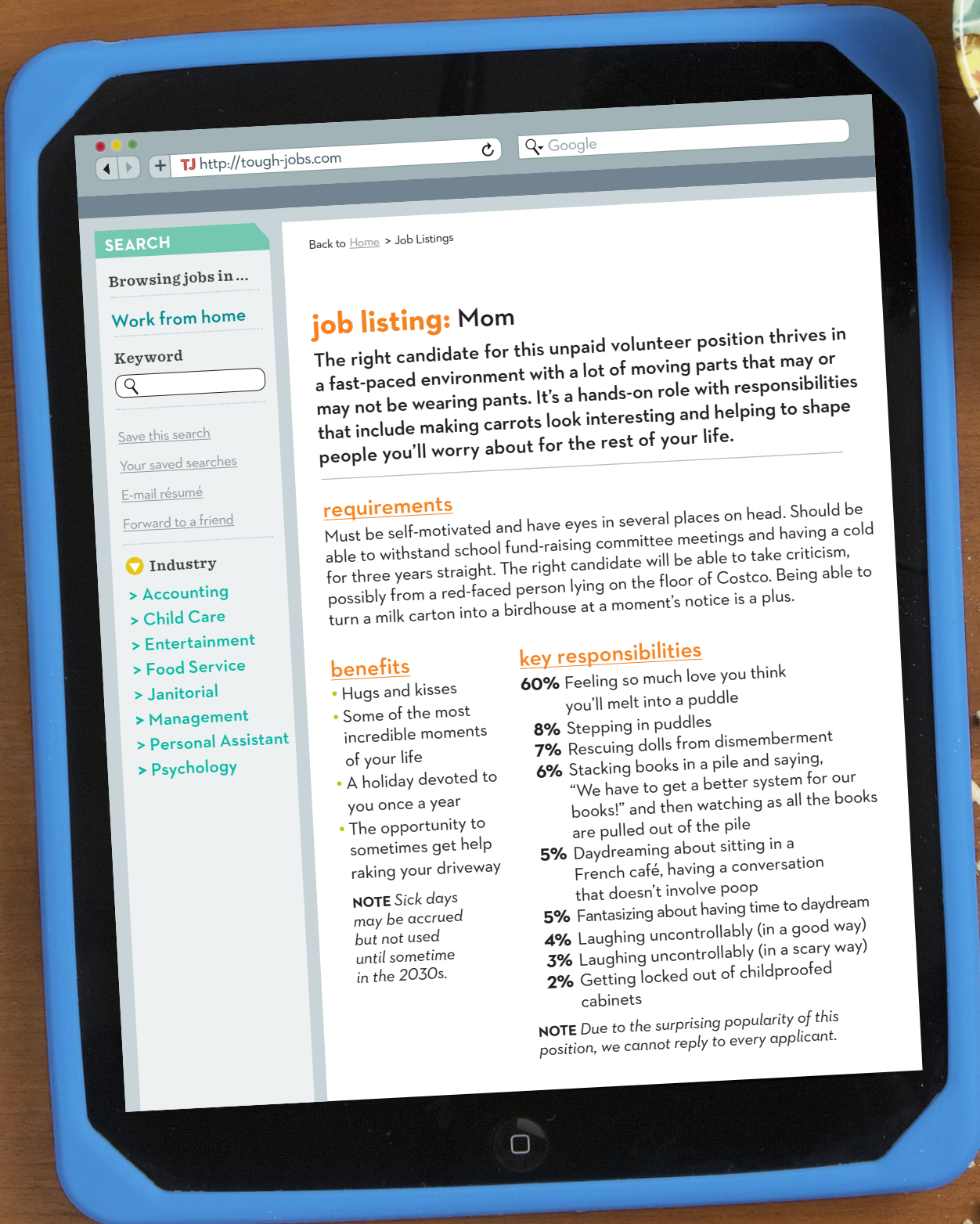


Mom Wanted

Would you like to work at home? Help others? Be your own boss (kind of)? Consider this. *by SARAH SCHMELLING*



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Back to [Home](#) > Job Listings

job listing: Mom

The right candidate for this unpaid volunteer position thrives in a fast-paced environment with a lot of moving parts that may or may not be wearing pants. It's a hands-on role with responsibilities that include making carrots look interesting and helping to shape people you'll worry about for the rest of your life.

requirements

Must be self-motivated and have eyes in several places on head. Should be able to withstand school fund-raising committee meetings and having a cold for three years straight. The right candidate will be able to take criticism, possibly from a red-faced person lying on the floor of Costco. Being able to turn a milk carton into a birdhouse at a moment's notice is a plus.

benefits

- Hugs and kisses
- Some of the most incredible moments of your life
- A holiday devoted to you once a year
- The opportunity to sometimes get help raking your driveway

NOTE Sick days may be accrued but not used until sometime in the 2030s.

key responsibilities

- 60%** Feeling so much love you think you'll melt into a puddle
- 8%** Stepping in puddles
- 7%** Rescuing dolls from dismemberment
- 6%** Stacking books in a pile and saying, "We have to get a better system for our books!" and then watching as all the books are pulled out of the pile
- 5%** Daydreaming about sitting in a French café, having a conversation that doesn't involve poop
- 5%** Fantasizing about having time to daydream
- 4%** Laughing uncontrollably (in a good way)
- 3%** Laughing uncontrollably (in a scary way)
- 2%** Getting locked out of childproofed cabinets

NOTE Due to the surprising popularity of this position, we cannot reply to every applicant.

JANE T. GROWNUP, M.O.M.

summary Consummate professional with demonstrated experience producing high-quality human beings. Expertise in overseeing small teams of big personalities, and doing a hula dance so distracting it can make any toddler stop driving toy cars on a cat.

professional experience **Parent** 2006–present
(promoted to Parent of Two after two and a half years)
Supervisory position with revolving jobs in fields including:

*** ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**

Creative director, abstract painter (primarily watercolor- and finger-based), architect/interior designer (mostly mid-century modern pillow forts), acrobat/spotter, comedian, improvisational actor (known best for my recurring “robot mommy” and “tickle monster” roles), costume designer, makeup artist, singer/songwriter, storyteller (three of my plays have gone on to be produced in the Steinmetz’s backyard)

*** HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE**

Personal trainer, nutritionist, medical-symptom Googleologist, Zen master (have successfully shopped at Whole Foods with two children, thanks to a combination of measured breathing, focus, and knowing the location of all the free food samples)

*** FOOD-SERVICE INDUSTRY**

Short-order cook, waitress, feeder (spoon, bottle, and, of course, breast), dishwasher, baker, target for potato-launch practice

*** OTHER**

Interpreter, sprinter, hurdler, schedule coordinator, meteorologist, exterminator, military-grade tactician, legislator, detective, Wubbie rescuer, Spider-Man wrangler, diva agent, life coach, muse, benefactress, bad cop, good cop, rodeo clown, lounge chair, closet organizer, and cup holder (Please note: I’ve stopped leading parades due to recurring skipping injury.)

specialized skills Can plan princess-themed birthday parties in sleep. Can determine body temperature through a kiss. Able to read *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* 23 times in one day without getting snarky about the mouse’s demanding personality and silly-looking overalls.

additional training Learning by doing. Also, by asking that woman down the street how her daughters sit in a restaurant for more than five minutes without taking off their shoes and hurling them at other customers.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST,
though to speak with them you may have to repeat questions and talk in a pirate voice.




November 1, 2012



Re: Applying for the Mom position
To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a professional child-raiser with more than five years of experience removing mystery stains from Berber carpet, and I'm very interested in the Mom position.

Throughout my career, I've proven that I have the unique combination of athleticism, leadership, and **ability to forget everything that happened with the first kid** to do this job with aplomb. I've shown I can drive down a highway despite pteranodon-like screeches emanating from the backseat of the car. I have a knack for putting out fires, both figurative and literal, and the helpful talent of **making food with my body**. I have diplomatic skills—fostering peace talks between children and other children, children and adults, adults and really annoying other adults, and myself and household appliances. In short, I bring to the table ... well, I just bring a lot of things to the table.



After years of seeing my hairbrushes used for batons and martial-arts weapons, I've **learned how to pick my battles**. For example, when I hear a voice call, "Mommy! It's raining!" from inside the house on a sunny day, I know from experience that this might be a good time to put on headphones and do some vacuuming. I've learned that **every failure is a chance to learn something**; in fact that's the only thing that kept me going after the Great Preschool Fair Moonbounce Incident of 2009. (I can explain in the interview.)

I know some people might call this work thankless, but I've enjoyed the perks of this career. Every day, there's the chance I might pull back the blankets on my bed and find cheese or a small lizard. Several times I've tripped over a *Toy Story*-themed potty in the middle of the night and heard Woody and friends cheering me in the dark. I believe it's the universe telling me I'm doing a good job.

I'm ready to start immediately, though I may need nine months to get the rest of my workplace used to the idea. Please see the attached résumé, and contact me with questions. I can't promise I'll answer the phone, but I will do my best to dig it out of the hamper or litter box and get back to you, unless of course my son has once again reprogrammed it to be a TV remote. Thank you kindly.

Sincerely,

Jane T. Grownup

Jane T. Grownup

Enclosures: Résumé

