



Advocating for Nursing Students with Children: The Role of Nursing Faculty:

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Student-Parent Description

- Non-traditional, 24+ years old with dependent child(ren)
- Lives off campus
- Childcare responsibilities before and after class
- May have employment and marital relationship

Balancing Life Compromises

- Romance or family planning is on hold for now
- Financial Life: Line of Credit if Spouse is working
- Family Life Comes First: Additional and Younger Children make life busier!
- School Life: Struggling to fit in the traditional world, accepting exclusion
- Social Life happens in class or during playdates
- Time Management: Study when kids asleep or in childcare
- Personal Life and Health: No Me time for four years



Mature Student Learning Characteristics

- Stage of generativity versus stagnation
- Analytical and imaginative thinker
- Leadership abilities, career management and advanced social skills
- Highly motivated with life experience

Student-Parent Wish List

- More Family Friendly Campus Activities
- Family Care Office/ More Childcare Options
- School District Liaison
- Campus website information with childcare, after school programs, emergency babysitters
- Family Friendly Conferences
- Family Centred Faculty Role-modeling



Faculty Role

- Raise awareness of class dynamics, encourage mixed group work, check-ins throughout semester
- Inclusive office hours and assignment distribution
- Advocate for flexible campus activities
- Role model family friendly initiatives (breastfeeding rooms, child-friendly study zone)
- Clinical community learning options related to family location and childcare options
- Monitor student-parent rates with retention institution (#students with children)

Academic-Family Spillover

- Faculty-Student Relationship: Role Model or Apathy?
- Using 2 to 3 Childcare Services
- Study Time & Family Time Conflicts
- Less Class Enrichment Opportunities: Academically Disadvantaged!
- Group Assignments and After Class Meetings and Childcare Clashes
- Less Time to Watch Children Grow Up: Guilt!
- Quarrels with Traditional Students & Assignment Expectations

Acknowledgements

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References

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Dear Professor _____

I am a student-parent who is fully committed to and serious about my academic nursing career at Thompson Rivers University. I desire to do well in your course and in all my nursing studies at TRU; however, I know that balancing my family responsibilities may be challenging at times during the term. For example, there may be a time when my child will become ill and I may need to miss a class to stay home with my child. If that ever happens, I will:

1. Contact you as soon as I am able to let you know of my absence and the reason
2. Complete any missed work or requirements.

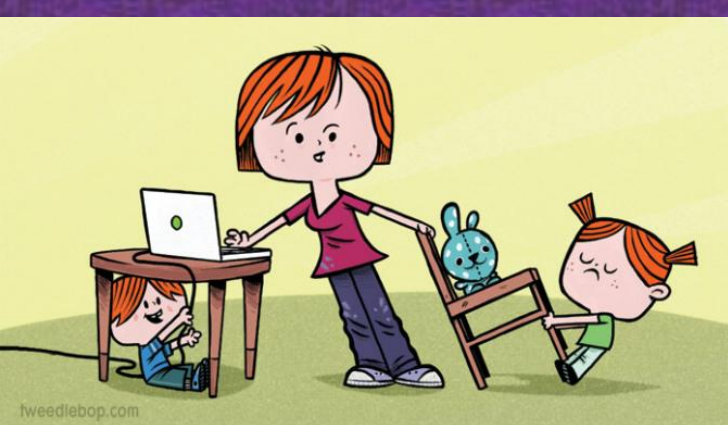
I am not asking for special treatment or for you to modify any of your class requirements. I am simply communicating my situation.

Thank you.

Student Name/Number: _____

E-mail: _____

(Signature of Student)



I do not have time for campus events or for myself... I would be taking time away from my kids

I wish I could spend more time with my children.

I need to graduate for my kids so we can have a better life.

How can I get my spouse to support my study time?

I need to go to work to pay for rent and buy my kid clothes

How do I find the time to figure out all this new technology?

I thrive on classroom seminars; I dread group assignments!

I wish there was a daycare on campus

I need to get to clinical but my child is sick and I have no childcare

I'm going through a divorce

I wish there were less evening or weekend classes; my kids need me

I don't fit in with the younger students

I can't find a baby sitter so I can meet with my study group and I need someone to watch them overnight for clinical

I wish my teacher understood what it is like to have kids.; I don't want special treatment!

I need to pick my son up from daycare right after class or find someone that can help

I wish my teacher were more available, my time is limited