

## ABC's of Wisdom – N – Noble

Noble is an old-fashioned word you seldom hear anymore. I wonder if that is because there is no need for it because so few measure up. To be noble is to be of high moral principles. I'm thinking of all the famous people that have fallen short of the quality of noble in my lifetime. I don't have to list them; you know who they are. There are few who make the cut like – Nelson Mandela, Warren Buffett, Frances Collin, M.D., Elie Wiesel, Mother Teresa, and Oprah. To be considered noble one must live a life invested in the welfare of others. A noble person: is intentional, is never lazy, is a hard worker with a plan, is always caring for family, invests in their success, and inspires respect from others. Noble means doing what must be done whether or not it is pleasant.

For the last year we all lived in what seemed like an alternate universe with a worldwide pandemic. We've seen noble people come to the forefront. One group has been especially affected and has gotten some attention in the media - mothers. They have experienced the most significant daily life changes-except for the health care workers of course. Well, some of them *are* mothers too. This Mother's Day mothers deserve our applause more than ever.

71 % of mothers in the U.S. work outside the home. In early 2020 all of a sudden without warning their jobs became at-home jobs if they were fortunate to keep a job. Their preschoolers couldn't go to a childcare that was closed. Their children couldn't go to school and they were doing virtual online classes. Children did not simply sit down at a computer, if they had one, and fall in line with the new program. So, mothers became instructors as well. That is if she knew how it worked.

Mothers are resilient. Mothers adapt. We expect miracles from mothers. And this last year that is what we got. Working mothers at home juggling work-at-home jobs or no job, children learning online classes and no childcare.

One of the biggest challenges facing parents in the COVID-19 crisis is child care. Recent research says about 4 1/2 million child care spots in the country could be permanently lost because of the pandemic. And that has a huge ripple effect — without child care, it will be hard for so many parents to get back to work. Economists predict this will affect mostly women, who will have to leave the workforce to care for their children. - Kavitha Cardoza, NPR

There were nearly 10 million mothers of young children in the labor force in 2019 according to a report between *The Century Foundation* and the *Center for American Progress*. This report also estimates that the risk of mothers leaving the labor force and reducing work hours in order to assume caretaking responsibilities amounts to \$64.5 billion per year in lost wages and economic activity.

According to Tim Henderson with *Stateline*, Mothers of children 12 years old and younger lost nearly 2.2 million jobs between February and August, a 12% drop, a *Stateline* analysis found. And The loss was even worse for single mothers of young children, who lost 16% of jobs they held in February last year.

Noble may be an old-fashioned word you seldom hear these days. And few measure up to its high standards. During the Covid-19 epidemic, mothers did measure up and they are, in my opinion, the new nobility.

*I dedicate this to my daughters, daughters-in-law and single mothers of SMORE.*