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Dear Pru,

I read with interest 'Domestic Divide' in Family Circle (April 2005) and felt the need to respond.

I am a 35 year old mother of two (aged $3\frac{1}{2}$ & 10 months). I am a 4 year trained teacher & I am currently on maternity leave.

My views about equity in the home? it doesn't exist!

After I had my son in 2001, I lasted for 3 months before I wanted to have 'a bit of spending money' & 'use my brain'. Although I enjoyed motherhood, I also didn't want my years of training & experience to go to waste so I set up a little tutoring business, which I still do 3 afternoons a week!

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This however, has always been a 'big bear' with my husband because he comes home & is 'on duty'.

I truly feel that if a mother wants to work, it's another job! Your workload increases, there's no trading. If I choose to work as a casual teacher (so that I'm not out of teaching for too long) it adds to my workload. I haven't been able to 'get rid' of any of my jobs.

We are fortunate that I don't HAVE TO WORK. but I really love teaching & I feel that it is a shame that many women lose their career because they are 'the mother'.

Unfortunately, motherhood is a very undervalued job and not looked upon as worthwhile as paid work is.

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When I started Casual Teaching recently, the first time that I was called, I was unable to work because my husband told me 'it's not easy for me to have a day off you know'. I wouldn't consider my husband, nor my friends husbands to be chauvinists but they truly have 'no idea!!'. Therefore I couldn't work - no discussion, no compromise.

In my particular situation, I would only have as many children as my mum + I can cope with! It's my mum who helps me with the kids, and my mum who I co-ordinate the kids activities with. Many of my friends are in exactly the same situation.

From my experience, many dads view 'the mum staying home as being able to watch Dr Phil and have coffee with

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friends. While this might be true for some (a good luck to them if that's the case) I believe that raising charges a relationship more than children.

And, as my mum + I see each other so much during the week because she helps me, I don't feel right asking her to mind them so that we can go to the movies or out to dinner.

In summing up, I believe that equality in parenthood doesn't exist + from my experience, I will only be having as many children as my mum + I can cope with!

Yours faithfully,

Julie.

P.S. If there are ever any questionnaires, comments etc that are needed, I'd be more than happy to assist!