



10 Reasons Sex Workers Are Great Parents

Counting Backwards to #1

#10. We have more money.

Like everyone who works, sex industry workers do it for the money. The financial rewards of sex work are appreciated by all members of the family.

#9. We have more time.

Because we make more money in less hours, we have more time for our kids. Being self-employed also allows us to schedule work around our kid's needs. If our kids have special needs, we can work around their appointments.

#8. We respect boundaries.

Sex industry work sensitizes us to the importance of self-determination. We demand our right to provide sexual services, while also demanding our right to set boundaries. It's a wonderful skill we acquire, to set and respect boundaries, and we want to make good and damn sure our children are also skilled at standing up for their rights.

#7. We are compassionate and non-judgmental.

We know first hand what it is like to be stigmatized, criminalized, and discriminated against. For sex industry workers, stigma is a fact of life.

When most parents simply jump on the judgmental bandwagon, sex industry workers often do the opposite. We are more likely to express concern for the person who is being judged. We might even defend them.

What we are teaching our children in these moments is that we shouldn't make assumptions or generalizations.

#6. We set an entrepreneurial example.

One of the most common personality traits among sex industry workers is the entrepreneurial spirit. Having an entrepreneurial spirit means being a self-driven, risk-taking, resourceful, creative, business owner.

I'm saying that entrepreneurs live the philosophy of building your dreams, which is a wonderful example for children to have.

#5. We have a different definition of success.

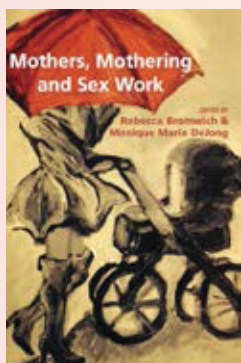
When most people think of success, they think of prestige, financial wealth, and political power. But sex workers know that success is not measured by how high you are on the social ladder. No, success is not about academics or sports. It is about an individual's passions, interests, and talents.

#4. We can laugh at life's little blips.

Sex work is intimate. It is personal. Ass zits and cellulite are there for the world to see when you're on stage.

Every sex worker I know has stories of "life's little blips" when things didn't go according to plan. So, when our kids hit those inevitable bumps in the road, we can teach them how to deal with devastation... or we could laugh it off as one of "life's little blips." When choosing between taking things too seriously or too lightly, go with lightly. It will bring more laughter into your life. Your children's laughter. A most beautiful sound, I know.

Continued on next page ▶



Mothers in Sex Work: A Groundbreaking Canadian Anthology

Exploring the shared intersections of mothering, motherhood and sex work, *Mothers, Mothering and Sex Work* weaves together a range of voices from academic and sex-worker communities around the world. It features interdisciplinary contributions, scholarly essays, academic research, artwork, poetry, photography and experiential narratives. Notable among these are two modern masterpieces from literary legends: *Voices*, a short story by Alice Munro and excerpts from Maya Angelou's autobiography *Gather Together in my Name*. In the spirit of the adage nothing about us without us, *Mothers, Mothering and Sex Work* brings together unique and controversial viewpoints defying conventional wisdom to provide fresh insights into sex workers and their rights. Beginning with the political, legal and social context of sexuality and gender in Canada, the book's focus widens to explore issues affecting sex workers worldwide.

10 Reasons Sex Workers are Great Parents ▶ *Continued from previous page*

#3. We tell it like it is.

Want an honest opinion? Ask a sex industry worker.

It is a part of our culture, and I think that most of us were this way before we even got into the industry. It takes an open kind of person to do this work.

The result is that my children ask me questions I would never have asked my parents. They share their ups and downs with me, never fearing that I will judge or criticize them. This is the relationship I wanted to build and being a sex industry worker prepared me for it.

#2. We are excellent communicators.

Not only are we charismatic, endearing, and incredible conversationalists, but we are also very good at getting our message across.

Our communication abilities don't get left at work. We bring them home. We use our skills to make our kids feel listened to, valued, and understood while also "getting" why we cannot always give them what they want. Our kids know they can talk to us about anything.

Communication is key in any relationship and sex workers kick ass at communicating.

#1. We give unconditional love.

Sex industry workers have learned what unconditional love is. It is love that embraces you even when you've let your loved ones down. I knew when I became pregnant with my first child that my number one priority would be to make sure she never felt rejected by me in her life.

It is love that lets you know that you can choose your own path, make your own mistakes, and shake the very foundations on which your relationship is built - and it will still be there, strong as ever, embracing and accepting you.

Conclusion

The whole stigma that casts sex industry workers as bad parents is an intensely false and deeply damaging stigma that impacts sex industry workers and their children to their detriment.

24/4/2015 <http://www.nakedtruth.ca/2015/04/ten-reasons-sex-workers-are-great.html?sref=fb>



Remembering Tracy



On 21 July 2015, RhED celebrated the life of a very special and beautiful person, Tracy Connelly. A heartfelt memorial service was held at the St Kilda Gatehouse on the second anniversary of Tracy's passing.

Tracy will not be forgotten.