

MOTHERS UNITED
Keene 9/21/05

N.H.

Thank you for the privilege of talking to you and for walking with you on this lovely day. I know you have been spending the day indoors listening to people telling you what to do, so a good walk down the main street of this dear, lovely clean, little city is such a wonderful way to end the day.

This is a beautiful day, isn't it? Are we not lucky to be living here? We don't have to worry about being flooded out of our beds tonight. We have no problems with too much water here. We don't have to flee to safety, or to go up to the attic away from rising water, there to drown while waiting for rescue.

How lucky we are to live in a town with a good mayor who takes care of the city for us, and good public schools, with good teachers to teach our children to prepare them for the world in which they must live. Your job, as mothers of children, is equally as hard. It is your task to teach your children good manners, social graces, obedience, good behavior and truthfulness, never to tell a lie, never to use foul language, and always to be kind to other children both younger and older and in and out of school.

8:07

It is your duty as parents to keep in touch with the school, to know that it is being well staffed, to know what is being taught. We live in a Democracy, which means you are the government. It is the job of each of you to make sure the school is physically safe, and that fundamentals are being taught in preparation for the next grade. It is your business as parents to know how well your child's teacher is functioning and how well your child is behaving in the classroom, in the schoolyard and in the bus, if he or she is being transported.

It is also your job as a mother to see that your children have been given a good breakfast before they leave for school, to have helped them with their homework the night before if they have needed and asked for it.. Make sure they have done their homework assigned to them before they go to bed. They will sleep better if they have., looking forward to the next day, well prepared.

How lucky you are to have all the modern electric appliances needed to run a home, that does not require long hours of labor. You are expected to pay a price for all those conveniences, you have been freed, so that you have the time to nurture your children, each one of them, and to keep your house

clean with the vacuum cleaner, to make ^{morning} ~~housework~~ food, on an electric or a gas stove. You do not need to go out to a woodpile to carry in a heavy armful of wood to start A fire in a cookstove. Use that new spare time, that my mother never had, for something worthwhile. You Mothers United are earning the right to those electrical machines ^{because} you are here today, learning how to help others, and the world around you.

What you do in this time of the life of your children will enhance the rest of their lives. Teaching them to live in the world as a good citizen, is your job. Help them to do well in school by providing them with a peaceful, relaxed home in which to study, while they are in your care. Treat them with fairness, truth and humor. Have fun with them.

Teach them to always ~~speaking the truth, and to speak~~ well. You do not need to be rich or have a college education to teach children, while they are in your care, to speak well, and beautifully. To have good manners, and to love the people around them even the ones they do not especially like. Teach them to be independent, never whiney or sorry for themselves ^{and} ~~but ready and willing to look after children younger than themselves, to not hurt other people's feelings,~~ or envy other people's belongings, but to respect

themselves and do honor to others, so that others will honor them.

American women are freer to do their job well. They have less restraints than women do in any other country. But besides nurturing your children you must protect, correct and keep our country in which they will be living, to mend its ways and to take care of it economically and environmentally. We have only one life to live here on earth and only one planet on which to live this one life of ours. Use this planet, and teach your children to use it with respect. Give it loving care. Remember the people coming after you, the grandchildren, great grandchildren and all those that you love!

I didn't mean to preach to you, after all the learning you have had to absorb today. But my job of being a great-grandmother, means I have a duty too, to remind you of your duty. Do your job joyfully, with love, and a sense of humor. And if your dinner hasn't been all that great, make some popcorn in the evening, for them to munch on while they study!