

AKA Mom

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She is Woman.

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THE WORK-AT-HOME MOM

Finding work of home jobs can seem overwhelming and confusing. The first and most important step to getting started is to assess your skills, finances and family dynamics. Then figure what's best for you. Whether you want to be a telecommuter or independent contractor, these work of home jobs lend themselves well to a home office environment.

- 1** What would you say are the pros and cons of being a work at home mom?
- 2** How did you get started working from home? In this type of job?
- 3** Do you have any advice or resources you can offer our readers?



ONLINE COUNSELOR
Crystal H.
Atlanta, GA



SENIOR CONSULTANT FOR PAMPERED CHEF
Heather Denton
Lewisburg, TN
www.pamperedchef.biz/heatherdenton

1 The cons to working at home are that you don't get adult interaction in the same way you would if you were to work outside the house. Working at home doesn't give you the same concentration level because you are the one taking care of the needs of your children. The pros to working at home are that you are the one taking care of your kids and you don't have to pay for the cost of childcare. You also get to enjoy the other things stay at home moms do. I love staying and working at home, although it can be stressful because I need "me time" still.

2 I graduated with a master's degree in school counseling in 2009 and am a licensed school counselor. I have been unable to find a job in school counseling since or any other counseling position for that matter. Because I have a passion for counseling and education, I started my website called CounselorMom (<http://www.counselormom.com>). I started making a little bit of money from affiliates and advertising, so I started a company called CounselorMom, LLC. CounselorMom is a website catered to stay at home moms that offers coupons, household organization, and parenting advice; however, it is different from other mom blogs since I offer knowledge from a school counselor standpoint. I think I'm one of the only school counselor mom bloggers that I can find.

3 Starting a business from home is like any other job. It is hard work. It is not easy to make money quickly and a lot of work goes into it. I am still trying to make money and am nowhere near my goal, but I'm working on it. It is also wise to be careful when starting any business from home because there are a lot of scams out there...a lot trying to grab stay at home moms attention. It is also wise to be careful when starting any business from home because there are a lot of scams out there... a lot trying to grab stay at home moms attention like the old saying "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is". Also, it's best to find a mentor who can give you advice if you want to work from home.

www.counselormom.com

1 *Pro:* They would include making my own schedule without fear of missing a special occasion, being successful on your own, my family can help me with my job, I can work in my pajamas, I am my own boss, getting to meet new people and helping them have fun times with all of their friends. Pampered Chef offers great training materials to help you succeed and uses great incentives to urge you along. *Cons:* Cons would be being dependent upon buyers to make money, dealing with rejection and not taking it personally, and you need to be motivated to succeed everyday.

2 I went to a party and I saw that getting in that business was both practical and profitable. I signed up for an affordable fee and received a starter kit, which included everything I needed to be successful in the beginning. After a grand opening party to let all my friends know I was open for business and a successful start, I didn't have to use personal money on business supplies for the first year. I chose this type of job because it is flexible and fun. Also, I choose Pampered Chef because everyone eats, entertains, and cooks.

3 There are so many good companies to work for out there. The most important thing is to find the one you love to do everyday. It is not work if you enjoy doing it. Ask friends and family what they think you would be good at and what interests them because they will be the ones that help get your business started in the beginning. Even though you are at home, you need to set aside certain times that are for work. Set written goals that are visible and make your family aware of them to help support you. I try to make three contacts a day about my business at various places. Make sure that your husband and kids are willing to support you; you need their support. The most important thing is to find the JOB you love to do everyday.



FREELANCE TRAVEL CONTENT & COPYWRITER

Claudia Lool
Tampa, FL
www.travelwritingpro.com



FREELANCE WRITER/BLOGGER

Traci Suppa
East Fishkill, NY



www.WordScopeyny.com
and www.GoBigOrGoHomeBlog.com



PERSONAL SHOPPER

Joni Weinberg
Los Angeles, CA



thepersonalshopperformoms.blogspot.com

1 *Pro:* No commute, schedule my time and work faster. I can work from any location as long as there is a wireless connection, my smartphone and my laptop.

Cons: Sometimes my husband and kids forget that I am working when they see me walking and sitting in the living room...I am actually drawing inspiration away from my computer and am still in work mode.

2 I started working with a business coach to get the skills needed in this changing economy. I stayed home full time with my kids for many years and that gap made it hard to find a decent job. I had no continuous work record. Through the business coaching I found my passion and strength and started a writing service company specializing in travel, content and web copywriting.

3 If you are a mom who has a career gap or have left work and find that you are no longer employable, find a business coach that you can trust. Pay him/her to teach you the skills needed to start a business or get a job. I believe moms (even if they are a stay at home mom) will benefit if we keep up with relevant skills for future employment or businesses. There may come a time, you never know when your financial or marital status might change and you may find yourself at a crossroad. Will you be able to take new challenges? Could you survive in the marketplace? What if you can't find a job? If moms are just watching TV and having coffee chats to fill their time...like what I did before...one day they might wake up feeling lost and unable to find a job. Starting a business requires skills, even if you want to join a network marketing company. By buying a starter kit from a network company does not make me business owners...there are some skills involved. My advice...find yourself a coach you trust and follow directions and do the work.

1 *Pro:* For me, the pros outweigh the cons. Having flexibility in my schedule is key. I love being able to volunteer for PTA projects, and not having to stress about taking time off from work if one of my kids is sick. Of course, the work is still there, and I've spent many a night burning the midnight oil to make sure it gets done.

Cons: The major disadvantage is that my income reflects a part-time workload. In the future, when both my kids are in school full time, I hope to make up the difference! Working from home can also be solitary, so you have to make the effort to network through professional groups, both online and in person.

2 I accepted my first paid writing assignments while I was still employed full-time. A former employer needed a freelancer to write press releases, which I could do in my spare time. I also wrote several unpaid travel articles for websites in order to build up a portfolio of published work.

3 My advice to anyone considering freelance writing, especially if they are currently working for someone else, would be to start it as a side business and develop relationships with editors and corporate clients. Also consider how you will get health insurance if you don't have a spouse with job benefits; you may be able to obtain it through a professional organization. Freelance writing requires little overhead; mainly a computer and email account! There are many different types of writing from which you can earn money. The majority of my work is for corporate clients, writing press releases, newsletters, ad copy, and website copy. I started a family travel blog, "Go BIG or Go Home," both for fun, and as a platform to "show off" my writing skills. Blogs can be used to earn revenue, as well, but you need to build a lot of traffic before you can sell ad space on your blog. There are many websites listing writing jobs. You really have to search to find work, which is fairly compensated, though. I joined Freelance Success early on, and have found it to be not only a good source of leads, but also a source of camaraderie, advice, and support.

1 *Pro:* Setting my own hours, working around my kids' ever changing schedules, being able to take care of household errands, personal stuff, etc. during the week instead of cramming it into the weekend. *Cons:* Distractions!

2 Friends and acquaintances have been telling me for years that I'm stylish and should become a personal shopper. Fashion is my passion and I always go shopping and frequently help my friends. I know moms get busy and don't think about how they look. Then all of the sudden they realize they have nothing cute to wear. That's where I come in. I didn't know how to get started but I took a leap of faith and made business cards, posted my services on various mom websites, made a Facebook page, and a blog. Getting the word out is the most important thing.

3 Personal shopping to me something either you instinctively can or can't do. It has to come from within you, the passion and desire to style people, as well as an eye for it. I've always been the one my friends would ask to help them shop so I got a lot of practice. That said, I did look at other personal shoppers' websites/posts to see what kind of services they offer. I looked on Craig's List, Google, and asked friends if they've ever used one and how it went. I found a niche, styling moms. Finding your own niche is a great way to distinguish yourself from everyone else. And word of mouth is the best advertising there is.