

OPINION

Help employed mothers to

Because many women have postponed motherhood until their late 20s, or even into their 30s, they have been able to work at a career. They have become proficient and professional in their fields of work. After having children, many women do not wish to return to work.

Because of economic reasons, however, they have no other choice.

They now face the challenge of juggling a career, a household, a bigger family and finding adequate day care for their children. Many day-care facilities are not willing to take on infants because of the time-consuming effort it requires.)

When the child is older, another problem is added: How to transport toddlers to and from nursery schools and kindergartens that begin at 9 a.m. and end at 11:30

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a.m. Those are not exactly the easiest times to run out of work. And you sometimes have strangers, or buses, transporting your child — aged 3, 4 or 5 — all over town.

The situation now is totally out of your control.

There are many fantastic social programs designed for pre-school children. They are offered only during day-time weekdays. Your child will not be able to participate in them because you cannot take him or her. The few programs offered on Saturday or at night are so heavily enrolled that they're difficult to attend.

Many school activities take place after school. They're not only fun, but they add to our children's education. Because the

buses leave right after school, our children cannot even participate in them.

What does one do when one's day-care provider is sick or the child is sick? Do you stay out of work? I'll bet the boss loves that. Even though many companies are becoming more understanding, bosses still don't like having to pay for a sick day or a personal day when the work isn't getting done.

Most day-care centers and homes do give adequate care. Many offer a loving and educational environment. Still, it's not mom. Some children are fortunate to have grandparents willing to take on the daily responsibility. That's the best day-care situation. Again, it's not mom.

Nothing is wrong with staying at home and running a domestic business such as day care or sewing. But many of today's women have been trained for other types

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do their jobs in the home

of work. They prefer to continue using their hard-earned knowledge.

Businesses could completely turn this around for some women — and, at the same time, realize benefits for themselves in quality, morale and money. A little creativity is all it would take.

A huge amount of paperwork can be handled off the premises — billing, correspondence, office-overload, multiple-mailings, updates of parts catalogs, customer lists, small-parts assembly, etc. Telephone contacts also don't necessarily have to be accomplished at the office. Many people have computers that could be fitted with a modem for use in data entry, allowing direct computer contact with the office.

The advantages to business could be numerous.

■ A professional with educational and work experience will

make a greater effort to do the job right the first time. (Benefit, quality work.)

■ A person who is not sitting at work and worrying about her kids will have an excellent attitude toward her assigned tasks. (Benefit, good morale.)

■ An experienced person would require very little training and could suggest proven methods that might enhance performance. (Benefit, efficiency and greater knowledge.)

■ When all businesses are suffering from the high cost of medical benefits, many women already are covered under their husband's benefit packages. They would not request medical coverage, sick pay, paid vacations or coffee breaks. They would be paid

strictly on a "work performed" basis. (Benefit, lower overhead.)

It's time everyone took a look at this problem and did a little to help. When a business has a job opening that must be filled, executives should consider reorganizing duties in such a way that all the work that must be done "in-plant" can be accomplished by certain individuals. Then the work can be brought together that can be performed outside, and an experienced professional can be hired to help out.

Day care is a concern today. It causes a great deal of unnecessary stress that leads to a breakdown of the family unit as well as difficulty in coping for young children. Businesses would be doing a small part to solve this problem if every one with work that fits into this scheme would decide to participate.

Mary Soucy is a mother and a Bristol resident.