

# FAMILY, BEST QUOTES ON

Educate a man and you educate an individual—educate a woman and you educate a family.

--Agnes Cripps

A daughter can metaphorically punch her mother in the face a million times, and mom won't leave. If a daughter does this to her friends, they will leave. Teens act out at home, in part, because they are so comfortable with the love and security of home.

--Lauren Kessler

It's not our job to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world. It's our job to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless.

—L. R. Knost

In truth a family is what you make it. It is made strong, not by the number of heads counted at the dinner table, but by the rituals you help family members create, by the memories you share, by the commitment of time, caring, and love you show to one another, and by the hopes of the future you have as individuals and as a unit.

—Marge Kennedy

Before you were conceived I wanted you.  
Before you were born I loved you.  
Before you were here an hour I would die for you.  
This is the miracle of love.

--Maureen Hawkins

Of all modern notions, the worst is this: that domesticity is dull. Inside the home, they say, is dead decorum and routine; outside is adventure and variety. But the truth is that the home is the only place of liberty, the only spot on earth where a man can alter arrangements suddenly, make an experiment or indulge in a whim. The home is not the one tame place in a world of adventure; it is the one wild place in a world of rules and set tasks.

--G. K. Chesterton

Without a family, man, alone in the world, trembles with the cold.

--Andre Maurois

The rebellion is against time pollution, the feeling that the essence of what makes life worth living—the small moments, the special family getaways, the cookies in the oven, the weekend drives, the long dreamlike summers—so much of this has been taken from us, or we have given it up. For what? Hitachi stereos? Club Med? Company cars? Racquetball? For fifteen-hour days and lousy day care?

--Richard Louv

The unsuccessful bully can always become the father of a family.

--Rebecca West

When you were small  
And just a touch away,  
I covered you with blankets  
Against the cool night air.  
But now that you are tall  
And out of reach,  
I fold my hands  
And cover you with prayer.

--Dona Maddux Cooper

When I meet families on the ground in Bangladesh or India or Africa, I realize how much they're actually like families like mine in the United States. What they care about is their children growing up healthy and getting a great education so they can reach their full potential. That is a universal truth.

—Melinda Gates

It is easy to love people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home, for this is where our love for each other must start.

--Mother Teresa

A house without books is like a room without windows. No man has a right to bring up his children without surrounding them with books, if he has the means to buy them. It is a wrong to his family. Children learn to read by being in the presence of books. The love of knowledge comes with reading and grows upon it. And the love of knowledge, in a young mind, is almost a warrant against the inferior excitement of passions and vices.

--Horace Mann

Woman is the salvation or the destruction of the family. She carries its destiny in the folds of her mantle.

--Henri Frederic Amiel

Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to the country and to mankind is to bring up a family.

--George Bernard Shaw

Internet went down and I had to spend time with the family. They seem like good people.

—Internet Meme

To add a library to a house is to give that house a soul.

—Cicero

Eighty per cent of our criminals come from unsympathetic homes.

--Hans Christian  
Andersen

When you have mental illness it's common to be shunned by your family or friends. It wouldn't happen if they knew the pain you were in.

—Stanley Victor  
Paskavich

Take two kids in competition for their parents' love and attention. Add to that the envy that one child feels for the accomplishments of the other; the resentment that each child feels for the privileges of the other; the personal frustrations that they don't dare let out on anyone else but a brother or sister, and it's not hard to understand why in families across the land, the sibling relationship contains enough emotional dynamite to set off rounds of daily explosions.

--Adele Faber

Most bullies are the product of a stressful and often abusive home life. Next time a bully threatens or attacks you, just yell, 'Don't abuse me like your parents abuse you!' Then call children's services and tell them you saw this bully crying in the bathroom and you're worried about him. Bam! He just got moved to a foster home.

—Eugene Mirman

Alcoholism isn't a spectator sport. Eventually the whole family gets to play.

--Joyce Roberta-Burditt

One of the ironies of the iGen life is that despite spending far more time under the same roof as their parents, today's teens can hardly be said to be closer to their mothers and fathers than their predecessors were. 'I've seen my friends with their families— they don't talk to them,' Athena told me. 'They just say 'Okay, okay whatever' while they're on their phones. They don't pay attention to their family.' Like her peers, Athena is an expert at tuning out her parents so she can focus on her phone. She spent much of her summer keeping up with friends, but nearly all of that was over text or Snapchat. 'I've been on my phone more than I've been with actual people,' she said. 'My bed has, like, an imprint of my body.'

—Jean M. Twenge

Let me tell you about prejudice. It starts in the home, and that's in all cultures, all races, all creeds. The only thing we can do, as educated people, is understand that we do have these feelings and say to ourselves, 'Hey, that's racist, I don't have to think that way.'

--Edward James Olmos

If your sister is in a tearing hurry to go out and cannot catch your eye, she's wearing your best sweater.

—Pam Brown

I'm a great lover of visual art and I will happily discuss the color and texture of Van Gogh's *Starry Night*.... But I can think of nothing on earth so beautiful as the final haul on Halloween night, which, for me, was ten to fifteen pounds of candy, a riot of colored wrappers and hopeful fonts, snub-nosed chocolate bars and SweeTARTS, the seductive rattle of Jujufruits and Good & Plenty and lollipop sticks all akimbo, the foil ends of mini LifeSavers packs twinkling like dimes, and a thick sugary perfume rising up from the pillowcase.

And more so, the pleasure of pouring out the contents onto the rug in the TV room, of cataloging the take according to a strict Freak Hierarchy, calling for all chocolate products to be immediately quarantined, sorted, and closely guarded, with higher-quality fruit chews and caramels next, then hard candies, and last of all anything organic (the loathsome raisins). A brief period of barter with my brothers might ensue. For the most part, I simply lay amid my trove and occasionally massed the candy into a pile which I could sort of dive into, à la Scrooge McDuck and his gold ducats.

—Steve Almond

The worst misfortune that can happen to an ordinary man is to have an extraordinary father.

—Austin O'Malley

Money may change everything, as Cyndi Lauper sang. But lack of money definitely ruins everything. Financial impotence casts a pall of misery. It keeps you up at night and makes you not want to get up in the morning. It forces you to recede from the world. It eats at your sense of self-worth, your confidence, your energy, and, worst of all, your hope. It is ruinous to relationships, turning spouses against each other in tirades of calumny and recrimination, and even children against parents... To fail—which by many economic standards, a very large number of Americans do—may constitute our great secret national pain, one that is deep and abiding. We are impotent.

—Neal Gabler

No amount of law enforcement can solve a problem that goes back to the family.

—J. Edgar Hoover

It is the wretchedness of being rich that you have to live with rich people.

--Logan Pearsall  
Smith

The core gay experience throughout history has been displacement, a sense of belonging and yet not belonging. Gays are born mostly into heterosexual families and discover as they grow up that, for some reason, they will never be able to have a marriage like their parents' or their siblings'. They know this before they can tell anyone else, even their parents. This sense of subtle alienation—of loving your own family while feeling excluded from it—is something all gay children learn. They sense something inchoate, a separateness from their peers, a subtle estrangement from their families, the first sharp pangs of shame.

--Andrew Sullivan

A baby born today stands roughly a 50-50 chance of keeping his father. This is the first generation of American kids who must face not the sad loss of fathers to death, but the far more brutal knowledge that, to their fathers, many other things are more important than they are.

--Maggie Gallagher

Why is a woman still not safe when she's in her home?

--Tracy Chapman

The influence exerted by the television screen is centrifugal. The seats in front of the screen are so arranged that the members of the family no longer face each other....They are no longer together, they are merely placed one beside the other, as mere spectators.

--Gunther Anders

The most stressful situation that I have had is when my parents were divorced while I was in the 6th grade. As soon as they were divorced my mother's friend and her two kids moved in with my mom & my brother Steve. It was really hard on me and Steve because we wanted our dad to come back to live with us. And I just think, and then I start to cry. I try not to, but it gets me mad because I think my life is worth nothing.

—Anonymous Child

Tired of yelling to get your family's attention? Try one of these: Use the bathroom. Make a phone call. Relax on the couch. Open a chocolate bar.

—Ged Backland

Parents have to get over the idea that their children belong just to them; children are a family affair.

—Frank Pittman

Far from being the basis of the good society, the family, with its narrow privacy and tawdry secrets, is the source of all our discontents.

--Sir Edmund Leach

Parents offer an open womb. More than anyone else in your life, mothers, and sometimes fathers, can kiss it, and make it well when their grown children need to regress and repair. More than anyone else in your life, mothers, and sometime fathers, can catch you when you start to fall. When you are in disgrace, defeat, and despair, home may be the safest place to hide.

—Marge Kennedy

Fathers are still considered the most important 'doers' in our culture, and in most families they are that. Girls see them as the family authorities on careers, and so fathers' encouragement and counsel is important to them. When fathers don't take their daughters' achievements and plans seriously, girls sometimes have trouble taking themselves seriously.

—Stella Chess

Seven million American families live in gate developments. These modern suburban fortresses are the kinds of places that mostly white and affluent Americans choose to live in when they want to feel safe—from crime, from economic uncertainty, from Americans who are not mostly white and affluent.

—Franz Lidz

There are laws for everything except the harm families do.

—Sue Grafton

If you ever start feeling like you have the goofiest, craziest, most dysfunctional family in the world, all you have to do is go to a state fair. Because five minutes at the fair, you'll be going, 'you know, we're alright. We are dang near royalty.'

—Jeff Foxworthy

Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world.

--Kate D. Wiggins

All that really matters is that the people you love are happy and healthy. Everything else is just sprinkles on the sundae.

--Paul Walker

#### **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ADOPTED**

Teacher Debbie Moon's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had different color hair than the other family members. One child suggested that he was adopted and a little girl said, 'I know all about adoptions because I was adopted.'

'What does it mean to be adopted?' asked another child.

'It means,' said the girl, 'that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy.'

--Joan E. Miller

Sister is probably the most competitive relationship within the family, but once the sisters are grown, it becomes the strongest relationship.

--Margaret Mead

Some women are such bad cooks that their families pray before every meal.

—Evan Esar

Yes, single-parent families are different from two-parent families. And urban families are different from rural ones, and families with six kids and a dog are different from one-child, no-pet households. But even if there is only one adult presiding at the, yours is every bit as much a real family as are the Waltons.

--Marge Kennedy

The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.

--Maya Angelou

Children thrive in a variety of family forms; they develop normally with single parents, with unmarried parents, with multiple caretakers in a communal setting, and with traditional two-parent families. What children require is loving and attentive adults, not a particular family type.

--Sandra Scarr

A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it.

—George A. Moore

Men make houses, women make homes.

--Proverb

Just 10 percent of U.S. families consists of a husband who works, a housewife, and kids.

--*Speaker's Idea File*

The purpose of a family is for the formation of people who are able to love.

--Rosemary Haughton

The haunts of happiness are varied, but I have more often found her among little children, home firesides, and country houses than anywhere else.

--Sydney Smith

A little house well-filled, a little field well-tilled, and a little wife well-willed, are great riches.

--Benjamin Franklin

Happy laughter and family voices in the home will keep more kids off the streets at night than the strictest curfew.

--Unknown

The happiest moments of my life have been the few which I have past at home in the bosom of my family....public employment contributes neither to advantage nor happiness. It is but honorable exile from one's family and affairs.

--Thomas Jefferson



Every roof is agreeable to the eye, until it is lifted; then we find tragedy and moaning women, and hard-eyed husbands.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

To know after absence the familiar street and road and village and house is to know again the satisfaction of home.

--Hal Borland

There's no vocabulary  
For love within a family, love that's lived in  
But not looked at, love within the light of which  
All else is seen, the love within which  
All other love finds speech.  
This love is silent.

--T. S. Eliot

When brothers agree, no fortress is so strong as their common life.

--Antisthenes

A good laugh is sunshine in a house.

--William Makepeace  
Thackeray

Show me the home wherein music dwells, and I shall show you a happy, peaceful, and contented home.

--Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

Home is the place where, when you have to go there,  
They have to take you in.

--Robert Frost

What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family.

—Mother Teresa

The family is the nucleus of civilization.

--Will and Ariel Durant

Home was quite a place when people stayed there.

--E. B. White

The family is a storehouse in which the world's finest treasures are kept. Yet the only gold you'll find is golden laughter. The only silver is in the hair of Dad and Mom. The family's only real diamond is on Mother's left hand; yet can it sparkle like children's eyes at Christmas, or shine half as bright as the candles on a birthday cake?

--Alan Beck

Today, while the titular head of the family may still be the father, everyone knows that he is little more than chairman, at most, of the entertainment committee.

--Ashley Montagu

Home is not where you live but where they understand you.

--Christian Morgenstern

I have come back again to where I belong; not an enchanted place, but the walls are strong.

--Dorothy H. Rath

Home is the girl's prison and the woman's workhouse.

--George Bernard Shaw

Families are the most beautiful things in all the world.

--Louisa May Alcott

We, the children, are so full of repressed resentments against the tyrannies inflicted upon us by our parents, and so full of repressed shame at the slavery to which we subjected them, that we cannot bear a word against them. The sentimentality with which we regard the home is an exact measure of the secret grudge we actually bear against it.

--Floyd Dell

And my parents, a somewhat distant warmth, like a good fire in a room—that warmth that I knew I could go to if I needed, but which was formless and without a life of its own.

--Françoise Mallet-Joris

Out of some forty families I have been able to observe, I know hardly four in which the parents do not act in such a way that nothing would be more desirable for the child than to escape their influence.

--Andre Gide

Every large family has its angel and its demon.

--Joseph Roux

Family quarrels are bitter things. They don't go according to any rules. They're not like aches or wounds; they're more like splits in the skin that won't heal because there's not enough material.

--F. Scott Fitzgerald

Of late years, the family has got hold of man, and begun to destroy him. When a man is clutched by his family, his deeper social instincts and intuitions are all thwarted, he becomes a negative thing.

--D. H. Lawrence

There is no group so uncongenial as an uncongenial family.

--Randolph Bourne

In every dispute between parent and child, both cannot be right, but they may be, and usually are, both wrong. It is this situation which gives family life its peculiar hysterical charm.

--Isaac Rosenfeld

So much of what is best in us is bound up in our love of family, that it remains the measure of our stability because it measures our sense of loyalty. All other pacts of love or fear derive from it and are modeled upon it.

--Daniel Long

It is pleasant to have the family grow, too; in the chances of this world, the more the merrier is the best motto; I have always a little uneasiness when there is only one child. It is too much to stake so much love singly.

--George E. Woodberry

The leveling influence of mediocrity and the denial of the supreme importance of the mind's development account for many revolts against family life.

--Andre Maurois

A friend loves you for your intelligence, a mistress for your charm, but your family's love is unreasoning; you were born into it and are of its flesh and blood. Nevertheless it can irritate you more than any group of people in the world.

--Andre Maurois

One would think that near relations, who live constantly together, and always have done so, must be pretty well acquainted with one another's characters. They are nearly in the dark about it. Familiarity confounds all traits of distinction: interest and prejudice take away the power of judging.

--William Hazlitt

Among the various forms of domestic tyranny none occupies a more distinguished place than the tyranny of the weak over the strong.

--Sir Arthur Helps

The human being cannot live too long in the infantile environment, that is, in the bosom of his family, without serious danger to his psychic health. Life demands from him independence, and he who fails to answer the stern call through childish laziness and timidity is threatened with a neurosis.

--C. G. Jung

The lack of emotional security for our American young people is due, I believe, to their isolation from the large family unit. No two people—no mere father and mother—as I have often said, are enough to provide emotional security for a child. He needs to feel himself one in a world of kinfolk, persons of variety in age and temperament, and yet allied to himself by an indissoluble bond which he cannot break if he would, for nature has welded him into it before he was born.

--Pearl Buck

Men say to us, 'There is this problem of the family. How are we to preserve it? It seems to be dissolving before our eyes.' That has been true perhaps always and everywhere. Everywhere good things have seemed to be going. Yet everywhere they are merely struggling to their new birth.

--Bede Jarrett

It is only in home-relations that people are true enough to each other,—and show what human nature is, the beauty of it, the divinity of it. We are otherwise all on our guard against each other.

--Lafcadio Hearn

Where does the family start? It starts with a young man falling in love with a girl—no superior alternative has yet been found.

--Winston Churchill

Cruel is the strife of brothers.

--Aristotle

The family is the association established by nature for the supply of man's everyday wants.

--Aristotle

To make a happy fire-side clime  
To weans and wife,  
That's the true pathos and sublime  
Of human life.

--Robert Burns

He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune; for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief.

--Francis Bacon

Govern a family as you would cook a small fish—very gently.

--Chinese Proverb

Natural affection is a prejudice: for though we have cause to love our nearest connections better than others, we have no reason to think them better than others.

--William Hazlitt

An ounce of blood is worth more than a pound of friendship.

--Spanish Proverb

The Family! Home of all social evils, a charitable institution for indolent women, a prison workshop for the slaving breadwinner, and a hell for children.

--August Strindberg

Sacred family!...The supposed home of all the virtues, where innocent children are tortured into their first falsehoods, where wills are broken by parental tyranny, and self-respect smothered by crowded, jostling egos.

--August Strindberg

Stay, stay at home, my heart, and rest;  
Home-keeping hearts are happiest.

—Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

Woman knows what Man has too long forgotten, that the ultimate economic and spiritual unit of any civilization is still the family.

--Clare Boothe Luce

As are families, so is society. If well ordered, well instructed, and well governed, they are the springs from which go forth the streams of national greatness and prosperity—of civil order and public happiness.

—Frank Thayer

No nation can be destroyed while it possesses a good home life.

--J. G. Holland

As you cannot have a sweet and wholesome abode unless you admit the air and sunshine freely into your rooms, so a strong body and a bright, happy, or serene countenance can only result from the free admittance into the mind of thoughts of joy and goodwill and serenity.

—James Allen

To live happily with other people, ask of them only what they can give.

—Tristan Bernard

Every house where love abides and friendship is a guest, is surely home, and home, sweet home, for there the heart can rest.

--Henry Van Dyke

A house is made of brick and stone;  
A home is made of love alone.

--M. E. Worley (1926)

Home, to the small boy, is merely a filling station.

—Unknown

The security and elevation of the family and of family life are the prime objects of civilization, and the ultimate ends of all industry.

--Charles W. Eliot

He never cares to wander from his own fireside,  
He never cares to wander or to roam.  
With his baby on his knee,  
He's as happy as can be,  
For there's no place like home, sweet home.

--Felix McGlennon

Home is where the heart is.

--Pliny

The family is one of nature's masterpieces.

--George Santayana

The most ancient of all societies, and the only natural one, is that of the family.

--J. J. Rousseau

Every part of the family constitutes a part of the family tree. Father is the rough bark and fiber, the rugged part which supports and protects it. Mother is the heart, which must be sound and true or the tree will die. The daughter may be likened to the leaves and flowers that adorn it. The son is almost always the sap.

--Unknown

The best Christmas gift of all is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up with one another.

--Burton Hillis

As the gardener is responsible for the products of his garden, so the family is responsible for the character and conduct of its children.

--Unknown

Home is a place where teen-agers go to refuel.

--Unknown

A house is made of walls and beams; a home is built with love and dreams.

--William Arthur Ward

Families that pray together stay together, and families that work together—eat.

--Unknown

There are only two families in the world, the Haves and the Have-Nots.

--Miguel de Cervantes

One would be in less danger  
From the wiles of the stranger  
If one's own kin and kith  
Were more fun to be with.

--Ogden Nash

Blood's thicker than water, and when one's in trouble  
Best to seek out a relative's open arms.

--Euripides

Nobody who has not been in the interior of a family can say what the difficulties of any individual of that family may be.

--Jane Austen

'Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,  
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.

--John Howard Payne

There can be no freedom or beauty about a home life that depends on borrowing and debt.

--Henrik Ibsen

The family only represents one aspect, however important an aspect, of a human being's functions and activities....A life is beautiful and ideal or the reverse, only when we have taken into our consideration the social as well as the family relationship.

--Havelock Ellis

You can't appreciate home till you've left it.

--O. Henry

To be happy at home is the ultimate result of all ambition, the end to which every enterprise and labor tends, and of which every desire prompts the prosecution.

--Samuel Johnson

'A family without government,' says Matthew Henry, 'is like a house without a roof, exposed to every wind that blows.' He might better have said, like a house in flames a scene of confusion, and commonly too hot to live in.

--Henri Frederic Amiel

It was the policy of the good old gentleman to make his children feel that home was the happiest place in the world; and I value this delicious home-feeling as one of the choicest gifts a parent can bestow.

--Washington Irving

Happy homes are built of blocks of patience.

--Harold E. Kohn

There is a magic in that little word, *home*; it is a mystic circle that surrounds comforts and virtues never known beyond its hallowed limits.

—Robert Southey



A dining room table with children's eager, hungry faces around it, ceases to be a mere dining room table, and becomes an altar.

--Simeon Strunsky

A family without government is like a house without a roof, exposed to every wind that blows.

--Matthew Henry

The ideal of happiness has always taken material form in the house, whether a cottage or castle; it stands for permanence and separation from the world.

—Simone de Beauvoir

If you get rid of the state, the family can maintain order. But get rid of the family and you have nothing.

--Will Durant

Where love and the capacity for love are present in the domestic circle, one might say beforehand that no form of education can fail to succeed.

--Johann Heinrich  
Pestalozzi

In my opinion, the close emotional ties of an all-round good family provide the strongest stimulus to mental development.

--Benjamin Spock

A healthy society is based on the family, operating as a free and responsible agency, and each time the family relinquishes any of its functions to the social group or the state, our society is thereby weakened.

--Mortimer Smith

A man can't get rich if he takes proper care of his family.

--Navajo Saying

Home is the most popular, and will be the most enduring of all earthly establishments.

--Channing Pollock

Home life is no more natural to us than a cage is to a cockatoo.

--George Bernard Shaw

None but a mule denies his family.

—Arabic Proverb

The family you come from isn't as important as the family you're going to have.

--Ring Lardner

He that raises a large family does, indeed, while he lives to observe them, stand a broader mark for sorrow; but then he stands a broader mark for pleasure too.

--Benjamin Franklin

A happy family is but an earlier heaven.

—George Bernard Shaw

The greatest thing in family life is to take a hint when a hint is intended—and not to take a hint when a hint isn't intended.

--Robert Frost

Families with babies and families without babies are sorry for each other.

—Edgar W. Howe

I would rather start a family than finish one.

--Don Marquis

If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance.

--George Bernard Shaw

Children in a family are like flowers in a bouquet: there's always one determined to face in an opposite direction from the way the arranger desires.

--Marcelene Cox

Family is the most important thing in the world.

—Princess Diana

Justice was born outside the home and a long way from it; and it has never been adopted there.

--Walter Cronkite

The home of everyone is to him his castle and fortress, as well for his defence against injury and violence, as for his repose.

--Edward Coke

Pride, avarice and envy are in every home.

--Thornton Wilder

When your business displaces your family, find a new business.

—Dan L. Miller

Four years old: My Daddy can do anything.  
Seven years old: My Dad knows a lot.  
Nine years: Dad doesn't know quite everything.  
Twelve: Dad just doesn't understand.  
Fourteen: Dad is old fashioned.  
Twenty-one: That man is out of touch.  
Twenty-five: Dad's okay.  
Thirty: I wonder what Dad thinks about this.  
Thirty-five: I must get Dad's input first.  
Fifty: What would Dad have thought about that?  
Sixty: I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more.

*--It Starts on the  
Frontline*

When people lived in supportive urban communities, then you had lots of friends and a family wasn't going to implode. You were spreading it out—an aunt or grandad who might take the kids off your hands every once in a while, the brother to shoot pool with. We're trying to do all those things today with one person.

--Barbara Ehrenreich

It is not observed in history that families improve with time.

--George William Curtis

A family...is a little kingdom, torn with factions and exposed to revolutions.

--Samuel Johnson

The family—that great conservator of national virtue and strength—how can you hope to build it up in the midst of violence, debauchery and excess?

--Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Invest in your family first and your career second.

-- Pam Pottorff

A woman's place is in the home.

--Proverb

There is no failure that can alter the course of human events more than failing a family.

--Eleanor McGovern

A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after.

--Peter De Vries

The place of the father in the modern suburban family is a very small one, particularly if he plays golf.

--Bertrand Russell

Womanliness means only motherhood; All love begins and ends there.

--Robert Browning

Though motherhood is the most important of all the professions—requiring more knowledge than any other department in human affairs—there was no attention given to preparation for this office.

--Elizabeth Cady Stanton

A mother! What are we worth really? They all grow up whether you look after them or not.

--Christina Stead

Probably there is nothing in human nature more resonant with charges than the flow of energy between two biologically alike bodies, one of which has lain in amniotic bliss inside the other, one of which has laboured to give birth to the other. The materials are here for the deepest mutuality and the most painful estrangement.

--Adrienne Rich

When a child enters the world through you, it alters everything on a psychic, psychological and purely practical level. You're just not free anymore to do what you want to do. And it's not the same again. Ever.

--Jane Fonda

The mother-child relationship is paradoxical and, in a sense, tragic. It requires the most intense love on the mother's side, yet this very love must help the child grow away from the mother and to become fully independent.

--Erich Fromm

Claudia...remembered that when she'd had her first baby she had realised with astonishment that the perfect couple consisted of a mother and child and not, as she had always supposed, a man and woman.

--Alice Thomas Ellis

Being a mother is a noble status, right? Right. So why does it change when you put 'unwed' or 'welfare' in front of it?

--Florynce R. Kennedy

He that loves not his wife and children, feeds a lioness at home and broods a nest of sorrows.

--Jeremy Taylor

All life is bad, but family life is worse.

--Julian Mitchell

They fuck you up, your mum and dad.  
They may not mean to, but they do.  
They fill you with the faults they had  
And add some extra, just for you.

--Philip Larkin

It is impossible to win the great prizes of life without running risks, and the greatest of all prizes are those connected with the home.

--Theodore Roosevelt

God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers.

--Jewish Proverb

A mother is not a person to lean on but a person to make leaning unnecessary.

--Dorothy Canfield Fisher

He is the happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home.

--Johann Wolfgang von  
Goethe

A mother's love perceives no impossibilities.

--Cornelia Paddock

Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.

--Marion C. Garretty

No language can express the power and beauty and heroism of a mother's love.

--Edwin H. Chapin

A mother's love is like a circle, it has no beginning and no ending. It keeps going around and around ever expanding, touching everyone who comes in contact with it. Engulfing them like the morning's mist, warming them like the noontime sun, and covering them like a blanket of evening stars. A mother's love is like a circle, it has no beginning and no ending.

--Art Urban

Mother is the name of God in the lips and hearts of little children.

--William Makepeace  
Thackeray

There is no friendship, no love, like that of the mother for the child.

--Henry Ward Beecher

I'd rather be a mother  
Than anyone on earth  
Bringing up a child or two  
Of unpretentious birth.  
I'd rather nurse a rosy babe  
With warm lips on my breast  
Than warm lips on my breast  
Than wear a queen's medallion  
Above a heart less blest.  
I'd rather tuck a little child  
All safe and sound in bed—  
Than twine a chain of diamonds  
About my foolish head.  
I'd rather wash a smudgy face  
With round, bright baby eyes—  
Than paint the pageantry of fame,  
Or walk among the wise.

--Meredith Gray

There is no such thing as fun for the whole family.

--Jerry Seinfeld

Good families are generally worse than any others.

--Anthony Hope

A man's home may seem to be his castle on the outside; inside, it is more often his nursery.

--Clare Booth Luce

It takes patience to appreciate domestic bliss; volatile spirits prefer unhappiness.

--George Santayana

We need not power or splendor,  
Wide hall or lordly dome;  
The good, the true, the tender,  
These form the wealth of home.

--Sarah J. Hale

The strength of a nation, especially of a republican nation, is in the intelligent and well-ordered homes of the people.

--Lydia H. Sigourney

It is the personality of the mistress that the home expresses. Men are forever guests in our homes, no matter how much happiness they may find there.

--Elsie De Wolfe

A man's womenfolk, whatever their outward show of respect for his merit and authority, always regard him secretly as an ass, and with something akin to pity.

--H. L. Mencken

Everybody's talking about people breaking into houses but there are more people in the world who want to break out of houses.

--Thornton Wilder

The family is the basis of society, the nation and civilization.

--Ruby Dee

No one family form—nuclear, extended, single-parent, matrilineal, patrilineal, fictive, residential, nonresidential—necessarily provides an environment better for humans to live or raise children in. Wife beating, child abuse, psychological terror, material deprivation and malnutrition take place in each of those family forms. And our responsibility, whether single parents or coparents or no parents at all, is to do all in our power to help create a healthy nonoppressive family environment for every living human being.

--Dr. Johnetta B. Cole

The ruin of a nation begins in the homes of its people.

--Ashanti Proverb

Home is where I know true peace and love.

--Anita Baker

What is done by the family in the home environment has far greater influence on children than anything a school can do or undo. Unstable homes, with parents in motion day and night and over weekends make the school's job difficult, if not impossible.

--Terrell H. Bell

The family is a harbor of safety in an ocean of change. It is an association established in nature and guided by enduring principles of fellowship. It is where we first learn our potential, and face our responsibilities. In this kinship we find the strength to swim together and, eventually, the courage to swim apart.

--Unknown

Family life is the source of the greatest human happiness. This happiness is the simplest and least costly kind, and it cannot be purchased with money. But it can be increased if we do two things: if we recognize and uphold the essential values of family life and if we get and keep control of the process of social change so as to make it give us what is needed to make family life perform its essential functions.

--Robert J. Havighurst

A man cannot leave a better legacy to the world than a well-educated family.

--Thomas Scott

Family life is too intimate to be preserved by the spirit of justice. It can only be sustained by a spirit of love which goes beyond justice. Justice requires that we carefully weigh rights and privileges and assure that each member of a community receives his due share. Love does not weigh rights and privileges too carefully because it prompts each to bear the burden of the other.

—Reinhold Niebuhr

Eighty percent of our criminals come from unsympathetic homes.

--Hans Christian  
Anderson

Look well to the hearthstone; therein all hope for America lies.

--Calvin Coolidge



The antidote for crime should be administered in childhood, by the parents. The problem is not fundamentally that of the improper child so much as it is that of the improper home.

--Justice John W. Hill

Home is where the television is.

—Internet Meme

A family is a unit composed not only of children but of men, women, an occasional animal, and the common cold.

--Ogden Nash

A family is a form of government where the father is the chief executive, and the mother is the speaker of the house.

--Unknown

A family is where the father does the providing, the mother the deciding, and the children the overriding.

--Unknown

A household is a battleground where the children always triumph unless both parents unite to defend themselves.

—Evan Esar

Like plowing, housework makes the ground ready for the germination of family life. The kids will not invite a teacher home if beer cans litter the living room. The family isn't likely to have breakfast together if somebody didn't remember to buy eggs, milk, or muffins. Housework maintains an orderly setting in which family life can flourish.

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin

Govern a small family as you would cook a small fish, very gently.

--Chinese Proverb

Feelings of worth can flourish only in an atmosphere in which individual differences are appreciated, love is shown openly, mistakes are used for learning, communication is open, rules are flexible, responsibility (matching promise with delivery) is modeled and honesty is practiced—the kind of atmosphere found in a nurturing family.

--Virginia Satir

It is important for practical and psychological reasons to call any reasonably stable group that rears children a family....The advantage of this view is that traditional and nontraditional families can all be seen to serve the interests of children. Children can also feel comfortable with an approved family form, even if it is not traditional.

--Sandra Scarr

The most powerful lessons about ethics and morality do not come from school discussions or classes in character building. They come from family life where people treat one another with respect, consideration, and love.

--Neil Kurshan

If the family were a container, it would be a nest, an enduring nest, loosely woven, expansive, and open. If the family were a fruit, it would be an orange, a circle of sections, held together but separable—each segment distinct. If the family were a boat, it would be a canoe that makes no progress unless everyone paddles. If the family were a sport, it would be baseball: a long, slow, nonviolent game that is never over until the last out. If the family were a building, it would be an old but solid structure that contains human history, and appeals to those who see the carved moldings under all the plaster, the wide plank floors under the linoleum, the possibilities.

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin

Families and societies are small and large versions of one another. Both are made up of people who have to work together, whose destinies are tied up with one another. Each features the components of a relationship: leaders perform roles relative to the led, the young to the old, and male to female; and each is involved with the process of decision-making, use of authority, and the seeking of common goals.

--Virginia Satir

It is now clear to me that the family is a microcosm of the world. To understand the world, we can study the family: issues such as power, intimacy, autonomy, trust, and communication skills are vital parts underlying how we live in the world. To change the world is to change the family.

--Virginia Satir

At best the family teaches the finest things human beings can learn from one another—generosity and love. But it is also, all too often, where we learn nasty things like hate, rage and shame.

--Barbara Ehrenreich

The family endures because it offers the truth of mortality and immortality within the same group. The family endures because, better than the commune, kibbutz, or classroom, it seems to individualize and socialize its children, to make us feel at the same time unique and yet joined to all humanity, accepted as is and yet challenged to grow, loved unconditionally and yet propelled by greater expectations. Only in the family can so many extremes be reconciled and synthesized. Only in the family do we have a lifetime in which to do it.

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin

We are born into them, marry into them, even create them among the people we love. They come large and extended...or small and nuclear. But whatever their size or wherever they live, strong families give us the nurturance and strength we need in order to survive.

--Andrea Davis

Children belong in families, which, ideally, serve as a sanctuary and a cushion from the world at large. Parents belong to society and are a part of that greater world. Sometimes parents are a channel to the larger society, sometimes they are a shield from it. Ideally they act as filters, guiding their children and teaching them to avoid the tempting trash.

--Louise Hart

Whatever brawls disturb the street  
There should be peace at home.

--Isaac Watts

A two-parent family based on love and commitment can be a wonderful thing, but historically speaking the 'two-parent paradigm' has left an extraordinary amount of room for economic inequality, violence and male dominance.

--Stephanie Coontz

Family is the first school for young children, and parents are powerful models.

--Alice Sterling Honig

It is best for all parties in the combined family to take matters slowly, to use the crock pot instead of the pressure cooker, and not to aim for a perfect blend but rather to recognize the pleasures to be enjoyed in retaining some of the distinct flavors of the separate ingredients.

--Claire Berman

The house with no child in it is a house with nothing in it.

--Welsh Proverb

You don't have to deserve your mother's love. You have to deserve your father's. He is more particular.

--Robert Frost

The mortgage is still in our name but, increasingly, the house is theirs. One diaper, one vote.

--Fred G. Gosman

The family is constantly changing, as each member changes. Some changes we recognize as developments, and the pleasure they bring usually makes us more adaptable. Some changes threaten, or disappoint other members, who may try to resist the change, or punish someone for changing.

--Terri Apter

Only the family, society's smallest unit, can change and yet maintain enough continuity to rear children who will not be 'strangers in a strange land,' who will be rooted firmly enough to grow and adapt.

--Salvador Minuchin

Human beings are the only creatures on earth that allow their children to come back home.

--Bill Cosby

For most of us the word family carries very personal and emotional connotations, but it is essential that we learn to view all of humanity as part of the earth's family. While we have no trouble cherishing our own children, we must also appreciate our broader responsibility to the world's children. Only when we learn to value other people's children as our own will all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. And only then can we be assured of our own future and the future of our planet.

--Marianne E. Neifert

To be sure, changes in American family structure have been fairly continuous since the first European settlements, but today these changes seem to be occurring so rapidly that the shift is no longer a simple extension of long-term trends. We have passed a genuine watershed: this is the first time in our history that the typical school-age child has a mother who works outside the home.

--Kenneth Keniston

One theme links together these new proposals for family policy—the idea that the family is exceedingly durable. Changes in structure and function and individual roles are not to be confused with the collapse of the family. Families remain more important in the lives of children than other institutions. Family ties are stronger and more vital than many of us imagine in the perennial atmosphere of crisis surrounding the subject.

--Joseph Featherstone

Put together all the existing families and you have society. It is as simple as that. Whatever kind of training took place in the individual family will be reflected in the kind of society that these families create.

--Virginia Satir

The value of a family is that it cushions and protects while the individual is learning ways of coping.

--Michael W. Yogman

Extended families have never been the norm in America; the highest figure for extended-family households ever recorded in American history is 20 percent. Contrary to the popular myth that industrialization destroyed 'traditional' extended families, this high point occurred between 1850 and 1885, during the most intensive period of early industrialization. Many of these extended families, and most 'producing' families of the time, depended on the labor of children; they were held together by dire necessity and sometimes by brute force.

--Stephanie Coontz

Many Americans imagine simpler times even as a storm of social change swirls about, blowing parents here and children there. Sure, the 1950s ideal world would be wonderful. But knock on the nation's doors; Ozzie and Harriet are seldom at home.

--Leslie Dreyfous

Nostalgia is one of the great enemies of clear thinking about the family. The disruptions of families in the nineteenth century through death, separation, and other convulsions of an industrializing economy was much more catastrophic than we imagine.

--Joseph Featherstone

We now recognize that abuse and neglect may be as frequent in nuclear families as love, protection, and commitment are in nonnuclear families.

--David Elkind

Families need families. Parents need to be parented. Grandparents, aunts, and uncles are back in fashion because they are necessary. Stresses on many families are out of proportion to anything two parents can handle.

--T. Berry Brazelton

Not all family functions that seem to have been transferred outside the family—or that romantics sometimes yearn to bring back—were there in the first place. It is often claimed that ‘extended families’ (with three generations at home, aunts and uncles included) were the rule, and that they have now been replaced by ‘nuclear’ families. But actually most Americans have always lived in families consisting only of parents and children, and in colonial days, just as today, most children moved away from their parents’ homes to set up households of their own. Nor is the mobility that scatters kinfolk to widely separated regions a new thing; historical studies indicate that frequent moves to new places have always been the rule in American life.

--Kenneth Keniston

The most important difference between these early American families and our own is that early families constituted economic units in which all members, from young children on up, played important productive roles within the household. The prosperity of the whole family depended on how well husband, wife, and children could manage and cultivate the land. Children were essential to this family enterprise from age six or so until their twenties, when they left home.

--Kenneth Keniston

American family life has never been particularly idyllic. In the nineteenth century, nearly a quarter of all children experienced the death of one of their parents....Not until the sixties did the chief cause of separation of parents shift from death to divorce.

--Richard Louv

Families have always been in flux and often in crisis; they have never lived up to nostalgic notions about ‘the way things used to be.’ But that doesn’t mean the malaise and anxiety people feel about modern families are delusions, that everything would be fine if we would only realize that the past was not all it’s cracked up to be....Even if things were not always right in families of the past, it seems clear that some things have newly gone wrong.

--Stephanie Coontz

If family violence teaches children that might makes right at home, how will we hope to cure the futile impulse to solve worldly conflicts with force?

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin

It is misleading to discuss recent changes in family life without emphasizing the fact that for generations some Americans have had to raise children under particularly appalling pressures. Although much of what is worrying American parents is shared by them all, the most grievous problems are those that especially afflict a large minority—the poor, the nonwhite and, in various ways, the parents of handicapped children.

--Kenneth Keniston

There is nothing to be gained by blaming ourselves and other individuals for family changes. We need to look instead to the broader economic and social forces that shape the experience of children and parents. Parents are not abdicating—they are being dethroned, by forces they cannot influence, much less control. Behind today's uncertainty among parents lies a trend of several centuries toward the transformation and redefinition of family life. We see no possibility—or desirability—of reversing this trend and turning the clock back to the 'good old days,' for the price then was high in terms of poverty and drudgery, of no education in today's sense at all, and of community interference in what we today consider private life.

--Kenneth Keniston

The family that prays together stays together.

--Al Scalpone

Pessimists say that the family is eroding. Optimists say the family is diversifying. Both points of view are right. Families are more diverse and they are more in trouble—but not because of their diversity. The families of today—whatever their size or shape—are in crisis because our economy is failing, our national resources are shrinking, and our governmental policies to support them are inadequate.

--Constance R. Ahrons

While violent families often suffer from the stresses of poverty, family violence occurs at all levels of the social class structure. Researchers have repeatedly found violent families, whether rich or poor, to be characterized by high levels of social isolation, rigid sex-role stereotyping, poor communication, and extreme inequalities in the distribution of power among family members. These characteristics are consistently noted, whether the studies are wife battering, child abuse, or abuse of the elderly.

--Mary Field Belenky

Christmas gifts come in beautiful wrappings, and the most beautiful of all is a happy family all wrapped up in one another.

--Burton Hillis

What we have seen in the way of adaptation and adjustment seems to indicate that families are adjusting parenting to the world of work, rather than the labor markets and industries responding to the parenting and family needs of their employees.

--Sheila B. Kamerman

Happiness grows at our own firesides, and is not to be picked in strangers' gardens.

--Douglas Jerrold

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

--Burton Hillis

Having a family is like having a bowling alley installed in your brain.

--Martin Mull

Rejoice with your family in the beautiful land of life.

--Albert Einstein

An ounce of blood is worth more than a pound of friendship.

--Spanish Proverb

Home is where I am loved and safe and needed.

--Karen Cushman

Home was the place I never saw because I saw it all the time, too up close to see it well.

--Michael Dorris

Home is all the words that call you in for dinner, over to help, into a hug, out of a dream.

--Michael J. Rosen

An address is where you stay at night, where you walk right in the front door without knocking, where everybody talks to each other and uses the same toaster.

--Jerry Spinelli

Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.

--George Burns

Growing up in a loving home is the best break anyone can have.

--Walter Mondale



Home—the place where our stomachs get three square meals a day and our hearts a thousand.

--Charles M. Crow

What is done by the family in the home environment has far greater influence on children than anything a school can do or undo.

--Terrell H. Bell, U.S.  
Commissioner of  
Education

Spread love everywhere you go;  
first of all, in your own house.

--Mother Teresa

There are no adequate substitutes for father, mother, and children bound together in a loving commitment to nurture and protect. No government, no matter how well-intentioned, can take the place of the family in the scheme of things.

--Gerald R. Ford

Home is any four walls that enclose the right person.

--Helen Rowland

I looked up my family tree and found out I was the sap.

--Rodney Dangerfield

I do not believe fathers love their children any less than mothers do, but men do seem more likely to choose their job at a cost to their family, while women seem more likely to choose their family at a cost to their job.

--Anne-Marie Slaughter

Workers who put their careers first are typically rewarded; workers who choose their families are overlooked, disbelieved, or accused of unprofessionalism.

--Anne-Marie Slaughter

We might be witnessing the rise of the aunt, based on the simple fact that my brother's two small daughters have brought me emotional rewards I never could have anticipated. I have always been very close with my family, but welcoming my nieces into the world has reminded me anew of what a gift it is to care deeply, even helplessly about another. There are many ways to know love in this world.

--Kate Bolick

God gave us family so we wouldn't have to fight with strangers.

--Paul Begala

This sense of being at home is important to everyone's well-being. If you do not get enough of it, your happiness, resilience, energy, humor, and courage will decrease... Being at home feels safe; you have a sense of relief whenever you come home and close the door behind you... Home is the one place in the world. .. where you belong.... Coming home is your major restorative in life. These are formidably good things, which you cannot get merely by finding true love or getting married or having children or landing the best job in the world—or even by moving into the house of your dreams.

--Sandra Tsing Loh

The central conflict of domestic life right now is not men versus women, mothers versus fathers. It is family versus money. Domestic life today is like one of those behind-the-scenes TV series about show business. The main narrative tension is: 'How the hell are we going to make this happen?' There are tears and laughs and little intrigues, but in the end, it's just a miracle that the show goes on, that everyone is fed and clothed and out the door each day.

--Stephen Marche

We shall not ease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

—T. S. Eliot

In the family I grew up in, being called boring was like being called an ax murderer.

--Delia Ephron

An ounce of mother is worth a pound of priests.

--Danish proverb

A hotel isn't like a home, but it's better than being a house guest.

--William Feather

Family is not an important thing. It's everything.

--Michael J. Fox

God could not be everywhere, and therefore he created mothers.

--Jewish Proverb

Babies make days  
a little sunnier...  
family fun  
a little funnier..  
family ties  
a little dearer...  
and the meaning of love  
a little clearer.

—Unknown

Our notion of the perfect society embraces the family as its center and ornament, and this paradise is not secure until children appear to animate and complete the picture.

--Amos Bronson Alcott

The very definition of family in this country has changed. These days, unlike in previous generations, a single parent with a child is called a family; an unmarried couple with a child is called a family; a same-sex couple with a child is called a family.

--Brennen Jensen

Our concept of families is more flexible today. It's not 'here's a rigid, narrow definition, and now you have to conform.' It accommodates whomever we view to be part of our families.

--Susan L. Brown

Home is a physical place with brick and wood. But it's also about memory, aspirations, longing and fondness....Home isn't a fence. It's a gateway.

--David J. Hogan

For most of man's existence, religious imperatives, agrarian workloads and a total lack of reproductive knowledge led many couples to have very large families. However, advances in contraception and industrialized food production allow modern couples to have fewer offspring, while leaving the total weight of families constant.

--*Earth (The Book) A  
Visitor's Guide to  
the Human Race*

I didn't hesitate to kiss my father in public. And that's how I tried to raise my children. We're physical.

--Payne Stewart

What a mother sings to the cradle goes all the way to the coffin.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Home interprets heaven. Home is heaven for beginners.

--Charles Henry  
Parkhurst

The great danger for family life, in the midst of any society whose idols are pleasure, comfort and independence, lies in the fact that people close their hearts and become selfish.

--Pope John Paul II

God is at home; it's we who have gone out for a walk.

--Meister Eckhart

My home is not a place, it is people.

—Lois McMaster Bujold

Life's a voyage that's homeward bound.

—Herman Melville

Families are the tie that reminds us of yesterday, provide strength and support today, and give us hope for tomorrow. No government, no matter how well-intentioned, or well-managed, can provide what our families provide.

—Bill Owens

The most important work you and I will ever do will be within the wall of our own homes.

—Harold B. Lee

The Dalai Lama is the spiritual head of your younger sister for six months when she's a senior in high school and wants to piss your parents off.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

Where there is a mother in the home, matters go well.

—Amos Bronson Alcott

No money is better spent than what is laid out for domestic satisfaction.

—Samuel Johnson

She gave me love, as well as life;  
So whatever goodness I may bring to Earth  
Began with the gift of my mother's heart.

—Robert Sexton

He gave so much of himself to me -  
His time, his trust, his tender care -  
That whatever else I may become  
I will always be my father's child.

—Robert Sexton

A family is a place where minds come in contact with one another. If these minds love one another the home will be as beautiful as a flower garden. But if these minds get out of harmony with one another it is like a storm that plays havoc with the garden.

—Buddha

Blood relatives often have nothing to do with family, and similarly, family is about who you choose to make your life with.

—Oliver Hudson

To Adam Paradise was home. To the good among his descendants home is paradise.

—Augustus W. Hare

If you keep your food in a refrigerator  
your clothes in a closet  
if you have a bed to sleep in  
And a roof over your head  
You are richer than 75% of the world population.

D. L. Hughley

The most important thing in life is your family. There are days you love them, and others you don't. But, in the end, they're the people you always come home to. Sometimes it's the family you're born into and sometimes it's the one you make for yourself.

—Carrie Bradshaw

I don't care about whose DNA has recombined with whose. When everything goes to hell, the people who stand by you without flinching—they are your family.

—Jim Butcher

The ache for 'home' lives inside all of us, to be able to return to our safe place and not have to be stressed and burdoned by the world. Home.

—José N. Harris

Family isn't always blood. It's the people in your life who want you in theirs. The ones who accept you for who you are. The ones who would do anything to see you smile, and who love you no matter what.

—*tinybuddha.com*

Food tastes better when you eat it with your family.

—*wellnessmama.com*

I shook my family tree and a bunch of nuts fell out.

—T-Shirt Slogan

What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family.

—Mother Teresa

Your sister is always the first female friend you will have in your life. Nobody will ever be able to understand your craziness like your sister and although you don't see each other as much as you'd like, she will always remain your friend and be there for you when you need her the most. While people will come and go in your life, your sister will be in your heart for a lifetime.

—*daveswordsofwisdom.com*

In dwelling, live close to the ground. In thinking, keep to the simple. In conflict, be fair and generous. In governing, don't try to control. In work, do what you enjoy. In family life, be completely present.

—Lao Tzu

There's nothing sweeter than your own house and your own trees.

—Abu Ammar

America's future will be determined by the home and the school.

—Jane Adams

If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.

—Mother Teresa

The most influential of all educational factors is the conversation in a child's home.

—William Temple Sr.

The family—that dear octopus from whose tentacles we never quite escape nor, in our inmost hearts, ever quite wish to.

—Dodie Smith

It doesn't matter whether we are a part of a traditional or nontraditional family. Our genuine feelings and concerns for those people we regard as family matter most of all.

--Jeanne Dosch

It is in the family that attitudes and skills essential for developing competent workers are first developed; interpersonal competencies of trust, health, decision skills, cooperativeness.

--Beatrice Paolucci

The workplace does not produce workers; it is in the family that workers are produced and human capital is initially developed.

--Beatrice Paolucci

Family is like branches on a tree: we all grow in different directions, but our roots remain as one.

—*scrapbook.com*

When people lived in supportive urban communities then you had lots of friends and a family wasn't going to implode. You were spreading it out—an aunt or grandad who might take the kids off your hands every once in a while, the brother to shoot pool with. We're trying to do all those things today with one person.

—Barbara Ehrenreich

Home is the first school for us all, a school with no fixed curriculum, no quality control, no examinations, no teacher training.

—Charles Handy

The family is both a biological and a cultural group. It is biological in the sense that it is the best arrangement for begetting children and protecting them while they are dependent. It is a cultural group because it brings into intimate association persons of different age and sex who renew and reshape the folkways of the society into which they are born. The household serves as a 'cultural workshop' for the transmission of old traditions and for the creation of new social values.

—Arnold Gesell

The informality of family life is a blessed condition that allows us all to become our best while looking our worst.

—Marge Kennedy

In all cultures, the family imprints its members with selfhood. Human experience of identity has two elements; a sense of belonging and a sense of being separate. The laboratory in which these ingredients are mixed and dispensed is the family, the matrix of identity.

—Salvador Minuchin

We are born into them, marry into them, even create them among the people we love. They come large and extended...or small and nuclear. But whatever their size or wherever they live, strong families give us the nurturance and strength we need in order to survive.

—Andrea Davis

Children thrive in a variety of family forms; they develop normally with single parents, with unmarried parents, with multiple caretakers in a communal setting, and with traditional two-parent families. What children require is loving and attentive adults, not a particular family type.

—Sandra Scarr

Whatever the times, one thing will never change: Fathers and mothers, if you have children, they must come first. Your success as a family, our success as a society, depends not on what happens at the White House, but inside your house.

--Barbara Bush

To have a place to go to is called home; to have someone to love is called family; to have both is a blessing.

—Unknown

Pew polls show that 42 percent of Americans now view the 'ideal' family for child-rearing as one in which Dad works full-time and Mom works part-time; about half prefer that she not work at all. Only 8 percent believe children are better off with Dad at home. About two-thirds of Americans believe that a married man should be able to support his family financially, yet only a third say the same about a woman.

—Andrew Moravcsik

The love in our family grows strong and deep, leaving us memories to treasure and keep.

—Unknown



We put the FUN in dysfunctional!

—Slogan

Always we hear the plaintive cry of the teenagers: What can we do...Where can we go? Let us speak the truth in love. The answer is go home.

Hang the storm windows, paint the woodwork. Rake the leaves. Mow the lawn. Shovel the walk.

Wash the car. Learn to cook. Scrub some floors. Repair the sink. Build a boat. Get a job.

Help the minister, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army. Visit the sick. Assist the poor. Study your lessons.

And then when you are through...and not too tired...read a book.

The world does not owe you a living. You owe the world something. You owe it your time and energy and your talents so that no one will be at war or in poverty or sick...or lonely again.

—Judge Philip B. Gilliam  
(1959)

The family is more important in improving schools than the schools themselves.

--William A. Sampson

To be sure, working—that is, earning a living is one aspect of fathering. It's one means that the father has of extending protection to his family. But it's just one. If he concentrates on this to the exclusion of other aspects, it becomes not a form of fathering, but an escape.

--Myron Brenton

Books should be a part of every child's life. They should occupy a central place in home and classroom alike. Children should have at their fingertips books like *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *Winnie the Pooh*. This is the only way they will really grasp the idea that reading is a joy rather than a burden. Yet in a recent study of fifth graders' reading habits, 90 percent of the children were found to read books only four minutes a day or less. The same children may watch television an average of three and a half hours a day.

—William J. Bennett

Families are like peanut brittle—It takes a lot of sweetness to hold the nuts together.

—Slogan

Books, for me, are a home. Books don't make a home—they are one, in the sense that just as you do with a door, you open a book, and you go inside. Inside there is a different kind of time and space. There is warmth there too—a hearth. I sit down with a book and I am warm.

—Jeanette Winterson

All of literature comes out of the family—*Oedipus*, *Hamlet*—even *Genesis* is a family story.

--Irwin Shaw

The best students come from homes where education is revered: where there are books, and children see their parents reading them.

—Leo Buscaglia

My daughter is seven, and some of the other second-grade parents complain that their children don't read for pleasure. When I visit their homes, the children's rooms are crammed with expensive books, but the parent's rooms are empty. Those children do not see their parents reading, as I did every day of my childhood. By contrast, when I walk into an apartment with books on the shelves, books on the bedside tables, books on the floor, and books on the toilet tank, then I know what I would see if I opened the door that says 'PRIVATE--GROWNUPS KEEP OUT': a child sprawled on the bed, reading.

—Anne Fadiman

A house is not a home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as the body.

--Benjamin Franklin

What makes an animal a pet—a creature to which our emotions attach, sometimes in logic-warping ways—is surpassingly difficult to pin down. Cats are a particularly puzzling case. Domesticated some 9,500 years ago, they still don't strike humans as completely tame. They live with us, but even indoor cats aren't entirely dependent on us, certainly not in the emotional way dogs are. They do many things that seem to defy rational explanation, which is no small source of their allure: the blanket-attack ritual, the full-body keyboard plop, the blank-wall stare, and perhaps most dramatic, the post-poop freak-out.

—Britt Peterson

More than a third of all households in the United States now have a pet cat (the total count is estimated to be close to 100 million animals), which marks a 50 percent rise since the 1980s. Their owners feed them, stroke them, shovel their litter, spend ages trying to photograph their yawns from the cutest angle for Instagram. They ignore their owners, mostly sleep, intermittently deign to serve as purring lap warmers, and occasionally drop a half-dead mouse on the rug. Mysterious as cats are, however, the great mystery about cats centers on humans. Why do so many of us love them so much when they are so bad for us, and for our planet?

—Britt Peterson

One small cat changes coming home to an empty house to coming home.

—Pam Brown

A family that may have more wars, books, churches, music, holidays, etc., attributed to it than any other appears to be the most interesting family to the planet for generations upon generations; Joseph, Mary, and Jesus.

—Keith Hand

Books are not entirely valued or intimately loved unless they are ranged about us as we sit at home.

--Edmund Gosse

Television retards the development of the brain, blunts the senses and encourages mental laziness. It impairs children's sense of their own identity, their linguistic abilities and their attention span. Furthermore, because of their addiction to television, children are deprived of play and of the opportunity to participate in the interpersonal rituals of family life.

--Neil Postman

Television thus illustrates the mixed blessings of technological change in American society. It is a new medium, promising extraordinary benefits: great educational potential, a broadening of experience, enrichment of daily life, entertainment for all. But it teaches children the uses of violence, offers material consumption as the answer to life's problems, sells harmful products, habituates viewers to constant stimulation, and undermines family interaction and other forms of learning such as play and reading.

--Kenneth Keniston

Ambivalence about family responsibilities has a long history in the corporate world.

—Rosabeth Moss Kanter

Your cell phone has already replaced your camera, your calendar, your alarm clock...Don't let it replace your family.

—Ruth A. Buzzi

The rise of women is not the result of any ideology or political movement; it is a result of the widespread realization, sometime after the Second World War, that families in which women work are families that prosper. And countries in which women work are countries that prosper. In 2006, a database created by the *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development* demonstrated what common sense tells us; with few exceptions, countries in which women have more economic and political power are richer than countries where women are relatively powerless. Patriarchy is damn expensive. That's why it's doomed.

--Stephen Marche

For most women who are considering it, single motherhood is not their first choice, but it's not their last one either. They would prefer a husband in their family, but they'd rather have a family without one than no family at all.

--Anne Cassidy

What I am defending is the real rights of women. A woman should have the right to be in the home as a wife and mother.

—Phyllis Schlafly

We labor to make a house a home, then every time we're expecting visitors, we rush to turn it back into a house.

—Robert Braul

This is the gay experience: the discovery in adulthood of a community not like your own home and the struggle to belong in both places, without displacement, without alienation.

--Andrew Sullivan

The U.S. is becoming an increasingly fatherless society. A generation ago, an American child could reasonably expect to grow up with his or her father. Today an American child can reasonably expect not to. Fatherlessness is now approaching a rough parity with fatherhood as a defining feature of American childhood.

—David Blankenhorn

'Our students didn't used to come from such damaged families,' Louis mused. 'It's true what they say. This country really is coming apart at the seams.'

—Paul Russell

‘Specialization,’ whereby one parent stays home and the other does the earning, is the most efficient way of running a household, because the at-home spouse enables the at-work spouse to earn more.

--Gary Becker

I live in my house as I live inside my skin: I know more beautiful, more ample, more sturdy and more picturesque skins: but it would seem to me unnatural to exchange them for mine.

—Primo Levi

In their landmark survey of single parenthood, Sara McLanahan and Gary Sandefur showed that children in single-parent homes do not do as well as children who are living with both biological parents. They are more likely to have trouble in school, more likely to drop out of school and, later, more likely to become single parents themselves. Some of this is simply the fact that unstable people are more likely to become single parents and also more likely to have difficulty parenting. But even the children of widows and widowers do worse on many measures than children of intact homes—a problem that was recognized back in the 19th century, when disease and work accidents frequently carried off parents in their prime. Something about living with only one parent holds kids back. That ‘something’...is fewer resources. The Internet overflows with essays on the resourcefulness, grit, and sheer heroism of single parents who manage to be ‘both mother and father’ to their children. But while we should have nothing but admiration for people who do their best in a bad situation, we should still recognize that for the child, and often for the parent, it’s a bad situation.

--Megan McArdle

My father was predisposed to drunken rages. I would hide under the bed. My sister and I were talking just the other day about the terror a drunken man in a rage can create in a child.

--Antonio Villaraigosa

Solving the drug problem will take all of us, but facing the drug problem must begin at home. Families need to play an integral role in drug prevention and education or they handicap their children as they try to cope with an imperfect and dangerous world.

—Manya Ungar

Alcohol is a very effective dissolving agent. It dissolves families, marriages, friendships, jobs, bank accounts and neurons, but never problems.

—Unknown

Alcohol and nicotine are considered ‘gateway drugs’ because they invariably are the precursors to using all the ‘other bad stuff’ available to children on the streets. They are addictive and can lead to grievous illness. And their use by children is illegal. Thus, when parents wink at their use by children—on the permissive theory that their progeny are merely ‘feeling their oats,’ ‘being part of the ‘gang,’ or ‘just growing up’ or have the misguided belief that children should experiment with alcohol at home, ‘to learn to drink sensibly’—they are implicitly making them scofflaws, in addition to setting the stage for potential personal disaster in the family.

—Thomas A. Shannon

In the inner-city school, 86 percent of students received free or reduced-price lunches; in the suburban school, 1 percent did. Yet in the richer school, the proportion of kids who smoked, drank, or used hard drugs was significantly higher as was the rate of serious anxiety and depression.

—Hanna Rosin citing a  
*Yale Psychiatry  
Department Study*  
by Suniya Luthar

The rich middle-and high-school kids...show higher rates of alcohol and drug abuse on average than poor kids, and much higher rates than the national norm. They report clinically significant depression or anxiety or delinquent behaviors at a rate two to three times the nation average. Starting in the seventh grade, the rich cohort includes just as many kids who display troubling levels of delinquency as the poor cohort, although the rule-breaking takes different forms. The poor kids, for example, fight and carry weapons more frequently....The rich kids, meanwhile, report higher levels of lying, cheating, and theft.

—Hanna Rosin citing a  
*Yale Psychiatry  
Department Study*  
by Suniya Luthar

To keep their children close, to keep them safe, and to ensure that they do not escape into the wild freedom of an adolescence unfettered by constant monitoring, drinking in captivity has become a popular alternative. Drinking isn’t like doing drugs—it’s not something parents recoil from in horror. It’s something they can make an accommodation for, and so they practice ‘social hosting,’ as the law refers to the custom: allowing teens to get hammered in the comfort and safety of the rec room.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Good Parents think that alcohol is dangerous for young people and that riotous drunkenness and its various consequences have nothing to recommend them. These parents enforce the law and create a family culture that supports their beliefs....Get-Real Parents think that high school kids have been drinking since Jesus left Chicago, and that it's folly to pretend the new generation won't as well. The horror stories (awful accidents, alcohol poisoning, lawsuits) tend to involve parents who didn't do it right—who neglected to provide some level of adult supervision, or who forgot to forbid anyone to get in a car after drinking.

—Caitlin Flanagan

Be a dog, but don't be a younger brother.

—Idries Shah

Dr. Webb says that losing a sibling is oftentimes much harder for a person than losing any other member of the family. 'A sibling represents a person's past, present, and future,' he says. 'Spouses have each other, and even when one eventually dies, they have memories of a time when they existed before that other person and can more readily imagine a life without them. Likewise, parents may have other children to be concerned with--a future to protect for them. To lose a sibling is to lose the one person with whom one shares a lifelong bond that is meant to continue on into the future.'

—John Corey Whaley

If the preservation of the home means the enslavement of women, economically or morally, then we had better break it.

—Agnes Macphail

Home is the place we love best and grumble the most.

—William A. Sunday

Families can also be divided into subgroups with different values, perspectives, and communication styles, even if a subgroup consists of only one individual.

—David Bedrick

A sister is a little bit of childhood that can never be lost.

—Marion C. Garretty

How strange is the lot of us mortals. Each of us is here for a brief sojourn for what purpose he knows not, though he senses it. But without deeper reflection one knows from daily life that one exists for other people.

—Albert Einstein

Imagine life as a game in which you are juggling some five balls in the air. You name them work, family, health, friends and spirit—and you're keeping all of these in the air. You will soon understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. But the other four balls—family, health, friends, and spirit—are made of glass. If you drop one of these, they will be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged or even shattered. They will never be the same. You must understand that and strive for balance in your life.

--Brian Dyson

Perhaps home is not a place but simply an irrevocable condition.

—James Baldwin

I consider therapy successful when the family members (or individual clients) have discovered ways to get what they need from their relationships with the people in their lives, so that their relationship with me is no longer necessary to sustain them. Like a chemical catalyst that facilitates a reaction between two other substances, the therapeutic relationship catalyzes the transformation of relationships in the lives of clients. But the real healing takes place not in the therapeutic relationship but in the client's relationships with significant others.

—Joseph A. Micucci

Often, our misunderstandings about love are born in disruptive family relationships, where someone was either one-up or one-down to an extreme. There is an appropriate and necessary difference in the balance of power between parents and young children, but in the best situations, there should be no power struggles by the time those children have become adults - just deep connection, trust, and respect between people who sincerely care about each other.

In disruptive families, children are taught to remain one-up or one-down into adulthood. And this produces immature adults who either seek to dominate others (one-up) or who allow themselves to be dominated (one-down) in their relationships—one powerful and one needy, one enabling and one addicted, one decisive and one confused.

In relationships with these people, manipulation abounds. Especially when they start to feel out of control.

—Tim Clinton

I explain to my patients that abused children often find it hard to disentangle themselves from their dysfunctional families, whereas children grow away from good, loving parents with far less conflict. After all, isn't that the task of a good parent, to enable the child to leave home?

—Irvin D. Yalom



## **THE HEALTHY FAMILY:**

1. communicates and listens.
2. affirms and supports one another.
3. teaches respect for others.
4. develops a sense of trust.
5. has a sense of play and humor.
6. exhibits a sense of shared responsibility.
7. teaches a sense of right and wrong.
8. has a strong sense of family and tradition.
9. has a balance of interaction among members.
10. has a shared religious core.
11. respects the privacy of one another.
12. values service to others.
13. fosters table time and conversation.
14. shares leisure time.
15. admits to and seeks help with problems.

—Delores Curran

It is very difficult to live among people you love and hold back from offering them advice.

--Anne Tyler

Kids who are trying to ‘make it’ in a broken home need to read books about other kids who face similar situations. They need to know that they are not alone in their experiences—that others feel pain and anger, loneliness and frustration....They can learn the possible alternatives that exist by seeing what others (even fictional ‘others’) do. In this way they may realize that they do have lives of their own independent of their parents.

—Beverly Haley

A kid in an abusive home has far fewer rights than any POW. There is no Geneva Convention for kids.

—Andrew Vachss

Home isn’t where you’re from, it’s where you find light when all grows dark.

—Pierce Brown

The family is the American fascism.

--Paul Goodman

No matter how many communes anybody invents, the family always creeps back.  
--Margaret Mead

There are fathers who do not love their children; there is no grandfather who does not adore his grandson.

--Victor Hugo

The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.  
--Theodore Hesburgh

No laborer in the world is expected to work for room, board, and love—except the housewife.

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin

My kids were only babies when their Daddy went away.  
So I hung up my apron and went out to work for pay.  
They put me on the night-shift working on a big machine;  
That was the last of normal life my kids and I have seen.

--Marilyn Major

Most jobs today are still structured the same way they were 50 years ago, when most families had someone who could stay at home.

--Joan Blades

The most wonderful thing ever made by man is a living for his family.  
—Thomas A. Edison

There is no social program in this country that is as important as a good job that pays well, that gives someone an opportunity to go to work, have some security, have benefits, and take care of their family and have a good life.

--Byron Dorgan

Sometimes I want to ask these guys who say they lament their rationed fatherhood whether they are serious in their regret. I recently asked one if he really would have traded some business success for more time with his children. He hardly paused. No, he had to be who he was. He made it sound as if he had been in the grip of some powerful force, like the one that brings salmon upstream to their spawning grounds. He had no guilt, just regret. What could he do? (I'd love to ask his kids if they would have preferred more time with Daddy over their trust fund.)

—Richard Cohen

Lead parenting is not merely its own reward; it also unlocks a capacity for caring and closeness that can last a lifetime. We know that support networks of friends and family help people tolerate adversity and live longer. Perhaps female advantages in these areas could help explain why women typically outlive men. A recent National Bureau of Economic Research paper speculates that women's 'nesting and family-protecting roles' and 'social planning and networking behaviors' could contribute to their sex's resilience and relative longevity.

—Andrew Moravcsik

Until the Second World War, it was unthinkable for a married woman of the working or middle class to disgrace her husband by working after marriage, because her employment indicated that he was a poor provider.

--Sandra Scarr

Having control over your schedule is the only way that women who want to have a career and a family can make it work.

--Mary Matalin

Happiness rates among women have dropped even as women have acquired more life options. One possible cause is the lingering inequity in male-female marriage: women's at-home workload can become so burdensome that wives opt out of the paid workforce—or sit at the office making mental lists of the chores they do versus the chores their husbands do, and bang their heads on their desks in despair.

--Liza Mundy

An employee with a good family life is healthier and more productive.

--Sylvia Sepielli

School is in many ways the beginning of those shark infested waters, when people, innocent children in this instance are hauled out of the utopia that is the family unit, hopefully full of love and warmth and protection, to be thrust instead into a whole other world where they are instantly told what they are and are not good at, who's better than them and why they need to change immediately.

—Chris Evans

Vulnerable fathers turn to time-honored defensive responses to maintain the function that father knows best. Parents, especially fathers, teach their sons to obey authority no matter what.

—Martha Stout

Character is largely caught, and the father and the home should be the great sources of character infection.

--Frank H. Cheley

Try never to be the smartest person in the room. And if you are, I suggest you invite smarter people or find a different room. In professional circles, it's called networking. In organizations, it's called team building. And in life, it's called family, friends, and community. We are all gifts to each other, and my own growth as a leader has shown me again and again that the most rewarding experiences come from my relationships.

—Michael Dell

Even the simplest wicker basket can become priceless when it is loved and cared for through the generations of a family.

—Sister Parish

Wood supplies a soothing warmth that no other fuel can provide, encouraging family and friends to gather around a roaring fire for pleasant conversation. Many romances have blossomed in front of a flickering fireplace—just one more wonderful way that wood warms you.

—Tim Clark

It is in the family that attitudes and skills essential for developing competent workers are first developed; interpersonal competencies of trust, health, decision skills, cooperativeness.

—Beatrice Paolucci

Equal pay isn't just a women's issue; when women get equal pay, their family incomes rise and the whole family benefits.

—Mike Honda

We love our mother because she cares and also because she cooks.

—Amit Kalantri

One family's most beloved recipes can become a delicious cornerstone as humanity builds a more pluralistic world where the best pieces of every culture can be enjoyed.

—Karen Anderson

Our house is clean enough to be healthy, and dirty enough to be happy.

—Internet Meme

No matter our age, everyone in our household knows that cooking and eating together is where the fun is.

—Corky Pollan

Warm familiar scents drift softly from the oven,  
And imprint forever upon our hearts  
That this is home  
and that we are loved.

—Arlene Stafford-Wilson

A house is much more than a mere shelter, it should lift us emotionally and spiritually.

—John Saladino

I am thankful for a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.... I am thankful for the piles of laundry and ironing because it means my loved ones are nearby.

—Nancie J. Carmody

Polly was all too aware that much of her time on holiday would be spent doing the laundry and the cooking and the child-care and all the other chores that back in London would be shared with her cleaning lady. A holiday with Theo and the children represented two weeks of domestic and maternal drudgery.

—Amanda Craig

Change the food in the schools and we can influence how children think. Change the curriculum and teach them how to garden and how to cook and we can show that growing food and cooking and eating together give lasting richness, meaning, and beauty to our lives.

—Alice Waters

Home is the one place in all this world where hearts are sure of each other. It is the place of confidence. It is the place where we tear off that mask of guarded and suspicious coldness which the world forces us to wear in self-defense, and where we pour out the unreserved communications of full and confiding hearts. It is the spot where expressions of tenderness gush out without any sensation of awkwardness and without any dread of ridicule.

—Frederick W. Robertson

Ah! There is nothing like staying home for real comfort.

—Jane Austen

It takes hands to build a house, but only hearts can build a home.  
—Unknown

A house that does not have one worn, comfy chair in it is soulless.  
—May Sarton

I don't think a really good pie can be made without a dozen or so children peeking over your shoulder as you stoop to look in at it every little while.  
—John Gould

Homemade meals—especially mommy meals—are life's most pleasant fuel.  
—Terri Guillemets

As a child my family's menu consisted of two choices: take it or leave it.  
—Buddy Hackett

Thank God for dirty dishes,  
they have a tale to tell;  
while others may go hungry,  
we're eating very well.  
  
—Internet Meme

The problem with the gene pool is that there's no lifeguard.  
—David Gerrold

Civilization ceases when we no longer respect and no longer put into their correct places the fundamental values, such as work, family and country; such as the individual, honor and religion.  
  
--R. P. Lebret

41 percent of Australian dog owners under 25 always bring their dogs on vacation. ...people of all ages treat their pets like family. According to one consumer survey, two-thirds of all dog owners consider their pet's comfort when purchasing a car.  
—Katherine Riley

As a very young girl, I understood that the interior activities of the home are as significant as the exterior activities of society.  
  
—Laura Esquivel

Some of us can live without a society but not without a family.  
—Amit Kalantri

The best way to keep children at home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant, and let the air out of the tires.

—Dorothy Parker

I think family is very important in West Virginia and has long been so because the mountains made travel difficult in the past, and family members had to depend on each other.

—David Selby

Happy are the families where the government of parents is the reign of affection, and obedience of the children the submission of love.

—Francis Bacon

When moms stayed home, it was easier just to let the kids play around the house. But as women entered the workplace and the extended family dissolved, someone else had to pick up the slack on the child-care front. Extracurricular activities fit the bill perfectly, promising not only supervision but also enrichment.

—Carl Honore

All happy families resemble one another; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.

--Leo Tolstoy

The dark, uneasy world of family life—where the greatest can fail and the humblest succeed.

--Randall Jarrell

Universal peace sounds ridiculous to the head of an average family.

--Kin Hubbard

Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do... but how much love we put in that action.

—Mother Teresa

African-American leaders have now taken hold of the concept that we need to be responsible for what goes on in our own backyard. In terms of solutions we need to look inward... We need to do a better job of parenting. We need to create extended families. We need to create our own economic institutions. We need to take responsibility for what goes on in our communities, in our families.

--Bill Nabor

Way down deep we feel it. The power of mother love. For centuries, it is been the glue that cemented the two things Black folks have traditionally valued above all others: our families and our faith.

--Laura B. Randolph

The number of female-headed households continues to grow among black families. Let it be known that the problem with such households is not that a woman is in charge. The problem is that they are poor households.

--Johnetta B. Cole

I was raised by a heroic single mother and wonderful grandparents who made incredible sacrifices for me. And I know there are moms and grandparents here today who did the same thing for all of you. But I still wish I had a father who was not only present, but involved. And so my whole life, I've tried to be for Michelle and my girls what my father wasn't for my mother and me. I've tried to be a better husband, a better father, and a better man.

It's hard work that demands your constant attention, and frequent sacrifice. And Michelle will be the first to tell you that I'm not perfect. Even now, I'm still learning how to be the best husband and father I can be. Because success in everything else is unfulfilling if we fail at family. I know that when I'm on my deathbed someday, I won't be thinking about any particular legislation I passed, or policy I promoted; I won't be thinking about the speech I gave, or the Nobel Prize I received. I'll be thinking about a walk I took with my daughters. A lazy afternoon with my wife. Whether I did right by all of them.

Be a good role model and set a good example for that young brother coming up. If you know someone who isn't on point, go back and bring that brother along. The brothers who have been left behind—who haven't had the same opportunities we have—they need to hear from us. We've got to be in the barbershops with them, at church with them, spending time and energy and presence helping pull them up, exposing them to new opportunities, and supporting their dreams. We have to teach them what it means to be a man—to serve your city like Maynard Jackson; to shape the culture like Spike Lee. Chester Davenport was one of the first people to integrate the University of Georgia law school. When he got there, no one would sit next to him in class. But Chester didn't mind. Later on, he said, 'It was the thing for me to do. Someone needed to be the first.' Today, Chester is here celebrating his 50th reunion. If you've had role models, fathers, brothers like that—thank them today. If you haven't, commit yourself to being that man for someone else.

--Barack Obama

Poor black people do not work their way out of the ghetto—and those who do often face the horror of watching their children and grandchildren tumble back.

--Ta-Nehisi Coates



It was common practice for me to take my children with me whenever I went shopping, out for a walk in a white neighborhood, or just felt like going about in a white world. The reason was simple enough: if a black man is alone or with other black men, he is a threat to whites. But if he is with children, then he is harmless, adorable.

--Gerald Early

On the road to equality there is no better place for blacks to detour around American values than in foregoing its example in the treatment of its women and the organization of its family life.

--Eleanor Holmes Norton

Black families, regardless of income, are significantly less wealthy than white families. The Pew Research Center estimates that white households are worth roughly 20 times as much as black households, and that whereas only 15 percent of whites have zero or negative wealth, more than a third of blacks do. Effectively, the black family in America is working without a safety net. When financial calamity strikes—a medical emergency, divorce, job loss—the fall is precipitous.

--Ta-Nehisi Coates

So much of what we know of love we learn at home.

--Unknown

For this, most of all, white America must accept responsibility. Family breakdown flows from centuries of oppression and persecution of the Negro man. It flows from the long years of degradation and discrimination, which have attacked his dignity and assaulted his ability to produce for his family.

—Lyndon Johnson

Racism is taught in our society, it is not automatic. It is learned behavior toward persons with dissimilar physical characteristics.

—Alex Haley

In an Indian home, if a child's face is dirty or his diaper is wet, he is picked up by anyone. The mother or father or whoever comes into the house....And children are fed whenever they are hungry. They are never allowed to be in want.

--Wilfred Pelletier

If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.

—Mohandas Gandhi

Fixed ideas about Americans seemed, among Miami Cubans, general. Americans, I was frequently told, never touched one another, nor did they argue. Americans did not share the attachment to family which characterized Cuban life. Americans did not share the attachment to patria which characterized Cuban life. Americans placed undue importance on being on time. Americans were undereducated. Americans, at one and the same time, acted exclusively in their own interests and failed to see their own interests, not only because they were undereducated but because they were by temperament 'naive,' a people who could live and die without ever understanding those nuances of conspiracy and allegiance on which, in the Cuban view, the world turned. Americans, above all, lacked 'passion,' which was the central failing from which most of these other national peculiarities flowed.

—Joan Didion

I can say anecdotally that every kid I knew who was chronically truant came from a home in chaos. I had a student last year who was absent about half the time because his father had been shot and his mother, who had lost her job, cried every night because she didn't know how she would pay the rent. My student walked the streets day after day looking for a job, even though no one would hire him because he was only 15. His mother begged him to stay in school and graduate, assuring him she would figure something out. Our counselor referred the family to public services, but because my student's mother was undocumented, she was afraid to seek them. And my student continued to be absent about half the time.

—Ellie Herman, Teacher

One day, when my children are grown, I hope they still come through the front door without knocking. I hope they head to the kitchen for a snack, and slump on the sofa to watch TV. I hope they come in and feel the weight of adulthood leave them, for they are home. For my children, my door will forever be open.

—Internet Meme

## **IF**

If there is righteousness in the heart,  
    there will be beauty in character,  
    there will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home,  
    there will be order in the nation.

Where there is order in the nation,  
    there will be peace in the world.

--Chinese Proverb

Esmeralda, a Latina sophomore, was the best softball player on the high school team that I coached. Nearly every time she came to the plate, she hit a triple or a double. While the other parents routinely came to the games, Esmeralda's parents were never there. One day, Esmeralda came to practice with a new tattoo of a boy's name. I assumed that it was the name of a new boyfriend, but she corrected me and told me it was her father's name. Her father was serving a life sentence in state prison. He had been in prison since Esmeralda was a child. The following year, Esmeralda was absent from school for four consecutive days. When she showed up on Friday, I asked her where she had been. She told me that over the weekend federal agents broke down her front door at 4:00 in the morning; they searched the entire house and arrested her mother and aunt. Esmeralda was terrified and had no idea what was going on. She later found out that her mother was part of a drug smuggling operation, and the police had found large amounts of drugs and money in the home. After her mother's arrest, law enforcement seized their home, and Esmeralda and her older sister, who was only 20 years old, needed a place to stay. The two of them had no money, so they stayed with their mother's friends. From then on, Esmeralda only came to school about once a week, until she finally dropped out. Esmeralda was a very talented student-athlete, and any college would have been lucky to have her, but her family's circumstances prevented her from ever having a chance.

—Adriane Kayoko  
Peralta

To work for better understanding among people, one does not have to be a former president sitting at a fancy conference room table. Peace can be made in the neighborhoods, the living rooms, the playing fields, and the classrooms of our country.

--Jimmy Carter

I have been black and blue in some spot, somewhere, almost all my life from too intimate contacts with my own furniture.

—Frank Lloyd Wright

Summertime, oh, summertime, pattern of life indelible, the fade-proof lake, the woods unshatterable, the pasture with the sweetfern and the juniper forever and ever...the cottages with their innocent and tranquil design, their tiny docks with the flagpole and the American flag floating against the white clouds in the blue sky, the little paths over the roots of the trees leading from camp to camp. This was the American family at play, escaping the city heat.

--E. B. White

It is in the coldest months that hugs linger snug, and they warm the soul the most.

--Richelle E. Goodrich

TV was entertainment of the last resort. There was nothing on during the day in the summer other than game shows and soap operas. Besides, a TV-watching child was considered available for chores: take out the trash, clean your room, pick up that mess, fold those towels, mow the lawn... the list was endless. We all became adept at chore-avoidance. Staying out of sight was a reliable strategy. Drawing or painting was another: to my mother, making art trumped making beds. A third chore-avoidance technique was to read. A kid with his or her nose in a book is a kid who is not fighting, yelling, throwing, breaking things, bleeding, whining, or otherwise creating a Mom-size headache. Reading a book was almost like being invisible—a good thing for all concerned.

— Pete Hautman

I have heard several people justify working long hours and getting home from work late at night by saying things like, 'I have to put in all this time to make up for the vacation we're going to take this summer.' I bet if I asked your kids, they'd say that they'd rather have you home every night to play with them than the weeklong summer trip to the lake where you're stressed out the whole time anyways.

— Daniel Willey

As we gather around the rough-hewn farm table made by my grandfather, I am reminded that my family has come together for generations in this same way. Summers were always our favorite times; we would eat outdoors under the shade of a tree - hand-rolled pasta with a sauce of fresh tomatoes and basil from the garden, cheese from my Aunt Carmella, olive oil sent by our cousin in Santa Margherita, and wine from our own jugs. After having our fill of food and laughter, we'd pluck ripe figs right off the trees, peel and eat them until the sun disappeared into the blue. I can still taste those summer days, and will always do everything in my power to re-create them.

--Adriana Trigiani

Don't wait until the fourth Thursday in November, to sit with family and friends to give thanks.

Make every day a day of Thanksgiving!

--Charmaine J. Forde

Isn't it true that a pleasant house makes winter more poetic, and doesn't winter add to the poetry of a house?

--Charles Baudelaire

The world is one big family, and we need to help each other.

—Jet Li

My motto for the home, in education as in life, is this: For heaven's sake, let people live their own lives. It is an attitude that fits any situation.

--A. S. Neill

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home. It is no season in which to wander the world as if one were the wind blowing aimlessly along the streets without a place to rest, without food, and without time meaning anything to one, just as time means nothing to the wind.

—Edith Sitwell

I can't, in restaurants, not watch families not talking to each other. In parks, I can't not watch mothers not talking to their children. In streets, I can't not watch mothers texting while they're pushing their children.

--Sherry Turkle

Where we love is home — home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts.

—Oliver Wendell  
Holmes, Sr.

Each second we live is a new and unique moment of the universe, a moment that never was before and will never be again. And what do we teach our children in school? We teach them that two and two make four and that Paris is the capital of France. When will we also teach them what they are? We should say to each of them... 'Do you know what you are?' You are a marvel. You are unique. In all of the world there is no other child exactly like you. In the millions of years that have passed there has never been another child like you. And look at your body....what a wonder it is! You may become a Shakespeare, a Michelangelo, a Beethoven. You have the capacity for anything. Yes, you are a marvel. And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is, like you, a marvel? You must cherish one another. You must work; we all must work to make this world worthy of its children. The love of one's country is a natural thing. But why should love stop at the border? We are all leaves of a tree and the tree is humanity.

--Pablo Casals

The love of family and the admiration of friends is much more important than wealth and privilege.

--Charles Kuralt

Friends become our chosen family.

—Valerie McKeehan

One loyal friend is worth ten thousand relatives.

—Euripides

If you have family that loves you  
A few good friends  
Food on your table  
And a roof over your head.  
You are richer than you think.

—*purehappyliife.com*

Many women cut back what had to be done at home by redefining what the house, the marriage and, sometimes, what the child needs. One woman described a fairly common pattern: 'I do my half. I do half of his half, and the rest doesn't get done.'

--Arlie Hochschild

Comparing Russia with the United States, I found that the Russians' definition of happiness was much grander. They talked about being happy when there's world peace. With the Americans it was all about money, fun and family. Things that are more attainable.

—Sonja Lyubomirsky

If you have only one smile in you, give it to the people you love. Don't be surly at home, then go out in the street and start grinning 'Good morning' at total strangers.

—Maya Angelou

Having a dog will bless you with the happiest days of your life, and one of the worst days.

—*PaintedPlum.com*

If you feed a man, and wash his clothes, and borne his children, you and that man are married, that man is yours. If you sweep a house, and tend its fires and fill its stoves, and there is love in you all the years you are doing this, then you and that house are married, that house is yours.

--Truman Capote

Black women who do marry are more likely than any other group of women to 'marry down.'

--Kate Bolick

Of all the home remedies, a good wife is best.

--Kin Hubbard

When you're writing about black people, white people may assume it's unconnected to them. But the reality is that what's happened to the black family is already beginning to happen to the white family. In 1950, 64 percent of African American women were married—roughly the same percentage as white women. By 1965, African American marriage rates had declined precipitously....Black marriage rates have fallen drastically in the years since—but then, so have white marriage rates....In 1965, fewer than 25 percent of black children were born out of wedlock; in 2011, considerably more than 25 percent of white children are....Just as the decline of marriage in the black underclass augured the decline of marriage in the white underclass, the decline of marriage in the black middle class has prefigured the decline of marriage in the white middle class.

--Kate Bolick

Unattached is the new fancy-free, a strategy for success that translates to later marriages, easier divorces, fewer kids, and a tendency to keep running toward the next horizon, skipping family dinner in the process.

--Thomas Joiner

The childless and even the partnerless life has gained something of a cultural cachet, with some suggesting they represent not just a legitimate choice but a superior one. It's a burgeoning movement that's joined cultural tastemakers, academics, neo-Malthusians, greens, feminists, Democratic politicians, urban planners, and big developers—each with their own reasons for advancing 'singlism,' the term coined by University of California, Santa Barbara, psychology professor Bella DePaulo. Unlike families, whose members, after all, are often stuck with one another, she praises singles as enjoying 'intentional communities' and being more likely 'to think about human connectedness in a way that is far-reaching and less predictable.'

--Joel Kotkin and  
Harry Siegel

The domestic life of most classes is relatively shabby, as compared with the éclat of that overt portion of their life that is carried on before the eyes of observers....People therefore habitually screen their private life from observation.

--Thorstein Veblen

At the worst, a house unkept cannot be so distressing as a life un-lived.

—Dame Rose Macaulay

Remember always that the least plain sister is the family beauty.

--George Bernard Shaw

By marrying too soon, many individuals sacrifice their chance to struggle through this purgatory of solitude and search toward a greater sense of self-confidence. They glance at the world outside the family and with hardly a second thought grasp anxiously for a partner. In marriage they seek a substitute for the security of the family of origin and an escape from aloneness. What they do not realize is that moving so quickly from one family to another, they make it easy to transfer to the new marriage all their difficult experiences in the family of origin.

—Augustus Y. Napier

I grew up in a very large family in a very small house. I never slept alone until after I was married.

—Lewis Grizzard

Marriage, in what is evidently its most popular version, is now on the one hand an intimate 'relationship' involving (ideally) two successful careerists in the same bed, and on the other hand a sort of private political system in which rights and interests must be constantly asserted and defended. Marriage, in other words, has now taken the form of divorce: a prolonged and impassioned negotiation as to how things shall be divided. During their understandably temporary association, the 'married' couple will typically consume a large quantity of merchandise and a large portion of each other.

The modern household is the place where the consumptive couple do their consuming. Nothing productive is done there. Such work as is done there is done at the expense of the resident couple or family, and to the profit of suppliers of energy and household technology. For entertainment, the inmates consume television or purchase other consumable diversion elsewhere.

There are, however, still some married couples who understand themselves as belonging to their marriage, to each other, and to their children. What they have they have in common, and so, to them, helping each other does not seem merely to damage their ability to compete against each other. To them, 'mine' is not so powerful or necessary a pronoun as 'ours.'

This sort of marriage usually has at its heart a household that is to some extent productive. The couple, that is, makes around itself a household economy that involves the work of both wife and husband, that gives them a measure of economic independence and self-employment, a measure of freedom, as well as a common ground and a common satisfaction.

—Wendell Berry



It's more pressure on women to —if they marry or partner with someone, to partner with the right person. Because you cannot have a full career and a full life at home with your children if you are also doing all of the housework and child care.

—Sheryl Sandberg

The all-American work ethic, destructive enough by itself, also packs a gender double standard that strip-mines the natural resources of both parents. It has taught us that as their earnings and success increase, men become 'more manly,' while women become 'less feminine.' This perverse cultural dynamic gives fathers an incentive to stay away from their families and kill themselves at work, while coercing mothers to limit their career commitment, which in turn limits their wages and shortchanges their families.

--Letty Cottin Pogrebin

Family jokes, though rightly cursed by strangers, are the bond that keeps most families alive.

—Stella Benson

We must face up to the fact that the phenomenon of out-of-wedlock births has reached epidemic proportions and is undermining the viability of our community. We've simply got to persuade our young people that they ought not to bring their own flesh and blood into this world unless they are fully prepared to love, nurture and provide for them.

If they aren't ready and willing to assume full responsibilities of parenthood, then this is an almost surefire prescription for poverty for their own flesh and blood.

They owe their children and our people a better shot at success in life.

--Hugh Price

I can't imagine dating a boy, meeting him only outside the home. What's a home and family for if it's not the center of one's life?

—Loretta Young

I think that most of the beauty of women evaporates when they achieve domestic happiness at the price of their independence.

--Cyril Connolly

When our parents are living we feel that they stand between us and death; when they go, we move to the edge of the unknown.

--R. I. Fitzhenry

I'm not really dying today. No person ever died that had a family. I'll be around a long time.

--Ray Bradbury

To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.

—Thomas Campbell

Ever since the Christmas of '53, I have felt that the yuletide is a special hell for those families who have suffered any loss or who must admit to any imperfection; the so-called spirit of giving can be as greedy as receiving--Christmas is our time to be aware of what we lack, of who's not home.

--John Irving

The life-saving power of belonging may help explain why, in America, blacks and Hispanics have long had much lower suicide rates than white people. They are more likely to be lashed together by poverty, and more enduringly tied by the bonds of faith and family. In the last decade, as suicide rates have surged among middle-aged whites, the risk for blacks and Hispanics of the same age has increased less than a point—although they suffer worse health by almost every other measure. There's an old joke in the black community, a nod to the curious power of poverty and oppression to keep suicide rates low. It's simple, really: you can't die by jumping from a basement window.

--Tony Dokoupil

When family chains are broken,  
Nothing is the same,  
But as God takes us one by one,  
He links the chain again.

--Ron Tranmer

Good government generally begins in the family, and if the moral character of a people once degenerate, their political character must soon follow.

—Elias Boudinot

Content lodges oftener in cottages than palaces.

--Thomas Fuller

Sufficient for me are a corner by the hearth, a book, a friend, and time enough for sleep, undisturbed by debts or sorrows.

--Andres Fernandez de  
Andrada

The haunts of happiness are varied, but I have more often found her among little children, home firesides, and country houses than anywhere else.

--Sydney Smith

I had been told that the training procedure with cats was difficult. It's not. Mine had me trained in two days.

—Bill Dana

It sounds cliché, but success is your friends, your family, what you do, and if you're happy when you wake up.

—Michael Pitt

There is something about Christmas that requires a rug rat. Little kids make Christmas fun. I wonder if I could rent one for the holidays. When I was tiny we would buy a real tree and stay up late drinking hot chocolate and finding just the right place for the special decorations. It seems like my parents gave up the magic when I figured out the Santa lie. Maybe I shouldn't have told them I knew where the presents really came from. It broke their hearts.

I bet they'd be divorced by now if I hadn't been born. I'm sure I was a huge disappointment. I'm not pretty or smart or athletic. I'm just like them- an ordinary drone dressed in secrets and lies. I can't believe we have to keep playacting till I graduate. It's a shame we just can't admit that we have failed at family living, sell the house, split up the money, and get on with our lives. Merry Christmas.

--Laurie Halse Anderson

I...judge success by the time I have for myself, the time I spend with family and friends.

—Brendan Fraser

And families now, families who have been separated throughout the year, assemble once more together. Now under these conditions, my friend, you must admit that there will occur a great amount of strain. People who do not feel amiable are putting great pressure on themselves to appear amiable! There is at Christmas time a great deal of hypocrisy, honourable hypocrisy, hypocrisy undertaken *pour le bon motif*, *c'est entendu*, but nevertheless hypocrisy.

--Agatha Christie

Animals are such agreeable friends—they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.

--George Eliot

A sweet friend of my Hannah's said that Christmas only makes her sad. 'It's just for happy families; it makes everyone else miserable.'

But there is a secret truth about family. Eventually you get to pick a family for yourself. And thanks to the sticky, sweet, funny, loud, rambunctious people I chose, Christmas is my favorite time of the year.

--Ellen Stimson

The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too.

--Samuel Butler

The only really 'soulful' eyes in the world belong to the dog or cat who sits on your lap or at your feet commiserating when you cry.

--Liz Smith

Every flower about a house certifies to the refinement of somebody. Every vine climbing and blossoming tells of love and joy.

--Robert G. Ingersoll

### **EXCUSE THIS HOUSE**

Some houses try to hide the fact that children shelter there—

Ours boasts of it quite openly,  
The signs are everywhere—  
For smears are on the windows,  
Little smudges on the doors;  
I should apologize I guess for toys strewn on the floor.

But I sat down with the children  
And we played and laughed and read;  
And if the doorbell doesn't shine,  
Their eyes will shine instead.

For when at times I'm forced to choose  
The one job or the other;  
I want to be a housewife—  
But first I'll be a mother.

—Unknown

Mom, when thoughts of you are in our hearts, we are never far from home.

—Unknown

Guns don't purr, of course, or lie across your belly at the end of a long day like a small, furry pillow. Then again, cats—however cute,—are lethal and heartless. That's essential to their charm, I would argue: We care about cats so much because (unlike babies) they really don't care about us. Even their purring seems to be all about them. They are egotistical and self-sufficient, and not really house pets, and we like the sense that we're more dependent on them than they are on us. Otherwise we would get dogs. To make the rest of nature pay the price for that preference, though, is an act of supreme selfishness. You might think we were spending a little too much time with our cats.

—Britt Peterson

Sitting in front of my fireplace, basking in its warm glow gives me time to reflect upon the sacrifices that it has taken for me to enjoy the security of a good home, in a safe environment. I can hear the soft whisper of the snow as it caresses my window and covers the ground outside in a scintillating display of sparkling lights under the full moon. How many times have our service men and women watched this same scene from a foxhole, or camped in some remote part of the world. Thankful for the silence of that moment, knowing it won't last long. Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He/she dresses in fatigues and patrols the world restlessly, ensuring that we can have this peaceful night. Every day they give us the gift of this lifestyle that we enjoy, and every night they watch over us. They are warriors, angels, guardians, friends, brothers, fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers, forming a family that stretches back to the beginning of the country. So tonight when you go to bed say a prayer that God watch over those who watch over us, and thank them for their sacrifices, on and off the battlefield. Pray that they have a peaceful night, and will be home soon with their families who also share their burden. Without them we would not have this moment.

--Neil Leckman

The focus of Thanksgiving should be a reflection of how our lives have been made so much more comfortable by the sacrifices of those who have come before us.

—Robert Emmons

Boy meets girl. Boy marries girl. Boy and girl angst over which family they visit at Thanksgiving and which one in December and whether or not it's best to serve turkey or goose for the family feast. When first faced with the reality that the family you married into does things differently, the warmth of tradition can take on a chill.

--Marge Kennedy

The glad greeting of Merry Christmas is a pledge of brotherhood. We are one great family. No wonder that Christmas is above all others the family day. A transfigured atmosphere of peace and love breathes around the home. The gifts and tenders of affection cement more closely the sacred ties of family life. The peace and love of this hallowed time shines like a halo around us; it goes with us as we hasten through the crowded streets; it brightens and cheers those we meet. There are no strangers on Christmas Day..

—J. T. Driscoll

Christmas, that time of year when people descend into the bunker of the family.

--Byron Rogers

Mother was anchor. Mother was comfort. Mother was home. A girl who lost her mother was suddenly a tiny boat on an angry ocean. Some boats eventually floated ashore. And some boats, like me, seemed to float farther and farther from land.

--Ruta Sepetys

When you're a kid, it isn't chaos. It's just a heartbeat. Your house isn't floating through space, it sits on the ground. Once you get old enough you start to see that color is just paint and doors are just wood. Then, at some point, that feeling of home vanishes entirely. And... that's what I fear. That nothing will ever make me feel like I'm safe again. That once you leave home, you never get it back.

--Ryan Galloway

Does your home make you happy? This place, this sanctuary, that we call home should be a place that makes us feel joyful, safe, and at peace. Let your home be a place of beauty. Let it be that your home never makes you feel trapped, stressed, or drained. Having a place of sanctuary is very important for the mental well-being. No matter what happens in the outside world there needs to always be a place for you to balance out and recharge. Let your home be a sanctuary that gives you peace.

--Avina Celeste

I had always thought of home not as a house, or even a place, but a feeling of safety and acceptance, a warm light when the rest of the world was a dark, forbidding place.

Whenever my family was around, wherever we were, I felt like I was home.

--Elizabeth Haydon

The older I get, the more I realize I just need the simple things in life: a comfy home, good food on the table and surrounded by the people I love.

—*sun-gazing.com*

In even a single murder, the victims are multiple. Not one but at least two whole families die, that of the victim, and that of the perpetrator, and...the damage is exponential to mothers, fathers, brothers, sons, daughters.

—Sally Jenkins

Terrifying mass shooting and high-profile officer-involved incidents have dominated the national conversation on gun violence in recent years. But most deaths by gun are not headline-grabbing massacres. They're more private, more intimate, and perhaps in that way, even more horrifying. Domestic violence, make no mistake, domestic violence is a gun issue.

--Melissa Harris-Perry

A remarkable 75 percent of children killed with guns this year have been under the age of 12. Since the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, three years ago, an American child under 12 has died by intentional or accidental gunfire every other day, according to analysis by NBC News. And those children are far more likely to die from guns held by family members and acquaintances than strangers, according to an NBC News analysis of FBI data.

On August 18, 9-year-old Jamyla Bolden was killed by a bullet fired into her Ferguson, Missouri, home as she did her homework on her bed. 'Usually when we hear the gunshots, she's the first one who yells 'Mom, they're shooting!' her mother told KMOV.com, a local news station. 'I noticed Jamyla wasn't saying anything. That's the main thing I remember: her not moving.'

—Jennifer Mascia

This enduring statistic from a decade-old report issued by California's attorney general emphasizes just how dangerous it is to introduce firearms into a turbulent relationship. In no state is that more pronounced than in South Carolina, which ranks first in the rate of women killed by men—a rate that is more than twice the national average. After several frustrated starts, South Carolina passed legislation this year limiting firearms access for domestic abusers—along with Alabama, Delaware, Maine, Oregon, and Vermont. But 17 states still do not have their own equivalent of a federal law banning criminal domestic misdemeanants from possessing guns, according to the *Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence*.

In one of those states, Georgia, Vanessa Soyer was gunned down in front of her 13-year-old son in their Lawrenceville apartment on November 16. A mother of four, the Harlem-bred Soyer, 47, authored a book about domestic violence. Her husband of 15 years, from whom she was separating, was arrested for the killing. 'Nobody would've ever thought that the words from the pages of her books would become her reality,' her GoFundMe page reads.

—Jennifer Mascia

If a family has an old person it it, it possesses a jewel.

—Chinese Proverb

At the end of life, we know that a top regret of most men is that they did not lead the caring and connected life they wanted, but rather the career-oriented life that was expected of them.

—Andrew Moravcsik

Year by year we are learning that in this restless, strenuous American life of ours vacations are essential.

—Ellsworth Huntington

Whether they live in an igloo or a grass shack or a mud hut, people around the world all want the same thing—a better house.

—Jack Handey

The hardest crop to raise on a farm are the boys of the family.

--Unknown

Growing up on an animal farm and growing popcorn, my family has never been well off. As some of you may know that animals drain your wallet and most of the time do not fill it back up. I am also one of eight children, so my parents' main goal was to provide their kids with what they need and not what they want. My farm is not the ideal farm to live on. We have old machinery, broken fences, and not enough land. My family works harder than anyone I know, and we are very close. We do not have nice things or everything that we need but we make do. I feel that this has brought my family closer, just because we do what we can with what we have and we enjoy it. I wouldn't have it any other way and I love who I am because of it!

—Mallory Blunier

The small family farm is one of the last places—they are getting rarer every day—where men and women (and girls and boys, too) can answer that call to be an artist, to learn to give love to the work of their hands. It is one of the last places where the maker—and some farmers still do talk about 'making the crops'—is responsible, from start to finish, for the thing made. This certainly is a spiritual value, but it is not for that reason an impractical or uneconomic one. In fact, from the exercise of this responsibility, this giving of love to the work of the hands, the farmer, the farm, the consumer, and the nation all stand to gain in the most practical ways: They gain the means of life, the goodness of food, and the longevity and dependability of the sources of food, both natural and cultural. The proper answer to the spiritual calling becomes, in turn, the proper fulfillment of physical need.

--Wendell Berry



The resource of generational history is accorded little attention our society, which seems ever more obsessed with making 'new' and 'better' synonymous. From my family I became aware of the importance of passing along wisdom from one generation to the next. Yet despite the increasing proliferation of digital recording and other communication technologies, we're passing on less knowledge today than our parents did through the oral tradition alone. We're drowning in photographs and videos, capturing every mundane moment of our birthdays, holidays, and vacations. Yet these can be no more than pleasant distraction, only scratching the surface of our real relationships.

--Ralph Nader

O Lord, please bless this land we farm,  
our buildings, home and all the rest.  
Protect the seed we plant in spring,  
and send the rain to do its best.  
Give us the wisdom to tend your land,  
and do our best and what we know.  
Please help the seeds we planted,  
to multiply and grow.  
Command your elements to be kind,  
and guard our crops out in the field.  
Bless our farm at harvest time,  
and fill our bins with a grateful yield.  
We thank you for these special gifts,  
you've granted through the year.  
But most of all, we thank you, Lord,  
for our family close and dear.

—Edward C. Schaefer

My father asserted that there was no better place to bring up a family than in a rural environment... There's something about getting up at 5 a.m., feeding the stock and chickens, and milking a couple of cows before breakfast that gives you a lifelong respect for the price of butter and eggs.

—Bill Vaughan

I cannot help but wonder whether, by continuing and expanding the school lunch program, we aren't witnessing, if not encouraging, the slow demise of yet another American tradition the brown bag. ... Perhaps we are beholding yet another break in the chain that links child to home.

—Charles Mathias, Jr.

The biology-based family that we so often hold up as the only true family has always been a luxury to some degree. Illness, accidents, emigration, natural and man-made disasters have all have worked together to make a family unit based solely on blood ties rather impractical.

Impractical because we never stop needing family of one sort or the other. And if our biological family is not there for us, we have to find some other way to create the family we need.

Friends can be family. A neighbor can be family. People at church can be family. Coworkers can be family. Or,... people just thrown together by the whims of fate can be family.

What is important is that in such relationships we seek to create the best of what we can find in our biological family, that consistent love, nurture, support, encouragement and comfort that makes family so special.

—Ken Potts

### **FIRST CORINTHIANS 13, CHRISTMAS VERSION**

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust... But giving the gift of love will endure.

—Sharon Jaynes

Charity should begin at home, but should not stay there.

—Phillips Brooks

You know you've made it in life when you forget it's payday.

—Internet Meme

The home is the child's first school, the parent is the child's first teacher, and reading is the child's first subject.

—Barbara Bush

Three are families that do not have the time or the know-how to integrate reading into their common lives. We can attribute these lacks to insufficient time or to the prevalence of other media, notably television, but here is more to it than that. The child who saw his mother seated with a book in her hand for the first time and who told a neighbor that she was inside 'watching a book' tells a good deal about television and that family's use of time, but, as an enthusiastic television and movie fan myself, I think we create paper tigers about the encroachment of these other media. The greater issue is discipline. We are fond of quoting the biblical statement about having times to live, to die, to sow, to reap. Successful families set times to read, to share, to view, to talk.

—Peggy Sullivan

At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a child, a friend or a parent.

—Barbara Bush

Each home has been reduced to the bare essentials—to barer essentials than most primitive people would consider possible. Only one woman's hands to feed the baby, answer the telephone, turn off the gas under the pot that is boiling over, soothe the older child who has broken a toy, and open both doors at once. She is a nutritionist, a child psychologist, an engineer, a production manager, an expert buyer, all in one. Her husband sees her as free to plan her own time, and envies her; she sees him as having regular hours and envies him.

--Margaret Mead

The man of the house can destroy the pleasure of the household, but he cannot make it. That rests with the woman, and it is her greatest privilege.

—Arthur Helps

Even as the cell is the unit of the organic body, so the family is the unit of society.  
—Ruth Nanda Anshen

Misery is when you heard on the radio that the neighborhood you live in is a slum but you always thought it was home.

--Langston Hughes

'I owe own success,' confided Miss [Fanny] Bryce, 'to the peaceful home life I enjoyed as a child. Anything my mother wanted to do, Pop let her, saying that she had a perfect right.' Miss Bryce thought for a moment and added, 'She had a pretty good left too.'

—Bennet Cerf

The kitchen will not come into its own again until it ceases to be a status symbol and becomes again a workshop. It may be pastel. It may be ginghamed as to curtains and shining with copper like a picture in a woman's magazine. But you and I will know it chiefly by its fragrances and its clutter. At the back of the stove will sit a soup kettle, gently bubbling, one into which every day are popped leftover bones and vegetables to make stock for sauces or soup for the family. Carrots and leeks will sprawl on counters, greens in a basket. There will be something sweet-smelling twirling in a bowl and something savory baking in the oven. Cabinet doors will gape ajar and colored surfaces are likely to be littered with salt and pepper and flour and herbs and cheesecloth and pot holders and long-handled forks. It won't be neat. It won't even look efficient. but when you enter it you will feel the pulse of life throbbing from every corner. The heart of the home will have begun once again to beat.

--Phyllis McGinley

Going off to college means you're finally on the cusp of actual adulthood and independence, but that doesn't mean that you have to cut yourself off from your family. If you forget something, call home. If you need more money in your school account, call home. If you forget how a laundry machine works, call home. If you just want to call home, call home. If you miss your parents, grandparents, guardians or siblings, call him. They'll love to hear from you, because they care about you and they want you to succeed. There's nothing wrong with missing your family. It's human nature, but I guarantee that they're going to miss you too. But just watch the time of when you're calling them. The middle of the workday isn't really the best time for everybody to catch up for 45 minutes on the phone.

—Shea Lazansky

What kind of life can you have in a house without books?

--Sherman Alexie

More Americans are now living in households with at least two generations of adults, with the percentage of people living in multigenerational households climbing to rates last seen in 1950.

In 2016, 64 million people—or 20 percent of the U.S. population—lived with multiple generations under one roof, according to the *Pew Research Center*. Pew defines a multigenerational household as having two or more adult generations, including grandparents or grandchildren younger than 25.... Research shows that living with other generations has physical and mental health benefits. A 2014 study by *Columbia University* found that people living in two-generation households had lower premature mortality than those on their own. ‘There’s that intergenerational connection, and the benefits go both ways, with generations learning from each other,’ says Shannon Guzman, a senior research analyst at *AARP’s Public Policy Institute*.

—*AARP Bulletin*

Money may be the measure of wealth, but it is far from the only form of it. Family, friends, social networks, personal health, culture, education, and even location are all ways of being rich, too.

—Matthew Stewart

If God had wanted us to spend our time fretting about the problems of home ownership, He would never have invented beer.

—Dave Barry

Soup is a lot like a family. Each ingredient enhances the others; each batch has its own characteristics; and it needs time to simmer to reach full flavor.

—Marge Kennedy

A piece of me is always turning there,  
to my old home, the place where was born;  
I’m drawn to something glowing in the air,  
The same way sunshine beckons growing corn.

—William Preston

Home is where your books are.

--Kerstin Gier

I learned from the age of two or three that any room in our house, at any time of day, was there to read in, or be read to.

—Eudora Welty

A successful family based on unity, forgiveness and love takes careful planning, but it's worth every moment.

—Munindra Misra

You must read to your children and you must hug your children and you must love your children. Your success as a family, our success as a society, depends not on what happens in the White House, but on what happens inside your house.

—Barbara Bush

Check in on family members every week or so. The most precious gift you can give to others is time, and it doesn't cost a thing.

—Jeanne Phillips

There is no sanctuary of virtue like home.

—Edward Everett

A cousin is a little bit of childhood that can never be lost.

—Marion C. Garretty

I have found that when you are deeply troubled, there are things you get from the silent devoted companionship of a dog that you can get from no other source.

—Doris Day

Multiple studies have found that only about 20 percent of student outcomes can be attributed to schooling, whereas about 60 percent are explained by family circumstances—most significantly, income. Now consider that, nationwide, just over half of today's public-school students qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches, up from 39 percent in 2000. Surely if American students are lagging in the literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving skills our modern economy demands, household income deserves most of the blame—not teachers or their unions.

—Nick Hanauer (2019)

The interesting thing about cheating is that it's a window into a kid's soul, and into the family's soul, too. Because so many of these kids are cheating to please their parents—to get a grade, to get into college, whatever. The 100 or so academic integrity cases I dealt with in 20 years as a high school English teacher and in two years as a vice principal in charge of disciplinary matters showed how desperate kids are to please their parents and help their friends.

—Joe Di Prisco

No matter how poor you think you are, if you have a family, you have everything.  
—Internet Meme

## **I WILL MAKE MY CHILD DO CHORES**

If kids aren't doing the dishes and other chores, it means someone else is doing these things for them. Julie Lythcott-Haims, former dean of *Stanford University*, said '...they're absolved of not only the work, but of learning that work has to be done and that each one of us must contribute for the betterment of the whole.' She notes that kids raised on chores go on to become employees who collaborate well with their co-workers, are more empathetic and are able to take on tasks independently.

—David Larson

Never make your home in a place. Make a home for yourself inside your own head. You'll find what you need to furnish it—memory, friends you can trust, love of learning, and other such things. That way it will go with you wherever you journey.  
—Tad Williams

Do you know what drives the world? Love, not sex. Love, not money. Love for our children, our mates, our friends, and our family.

—Jennifer Probst

It's not how big the house is...it's how happy the home is.

—Internet Meme

[Letter to his son] Home, wife, children—they are what really count in life. I have heartily enjoyed many things; the Presidency, my success as a soldier, a writer, a big game hunter and explorer; but all of them put together are not for one moment to be weighed in the balance when compared with the joy I have known with your mother and all of you.

—Theodore Roosevelt

What is the most important thing in life? To be happy. If you're lucky enough, part of that is being a helpful spirit to the people you love. That's what takes you from day to day.

—Martin Short

You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.

—Desmond Tutu

What greater thing is there for human souls than to feel that they are joined for life—to be with each other in silent unspeakable memories.

— George Eliot

You can kiss your family and friends goodbye and put miles between you, but at the same time you carry them with you in your heart, your mind, your stomach, because you do not just live in a world but a world lives in you.

— Frederick Buechner

I sustain myself with the love of family.

— Maya Angelou

Families are the most beautiful things in all the world!

—Louisa May Alcott

Built on a strong foundation of care and trust, families have the opportunity to fill the world around them with love. As members of a family pour into each other, they find their own cups spilling over. Any blessing we receive is meant to be passed on to others.

Family is more than blood. Families are made of those who you welcome in, share 'silent unspeakable memories' with, express vulnerability with, work to climb the highs and lows of life with, and who you love with all your heart.

Each moment is not perfect, because love is hard. Arguments arise, disagreements exist, and pain from the past has to be healed. It's hard work, but it's the most important part of life. This love extends far beyond the time spent together when children are young and into their whole lives.

Family is a truly beautiful thing.

—*showhope.org*

Woman's happiest kingdom is home, her highest honor the art of ruling it not as a queen, but as a wise wife and mother.

—Louisa May Alcott  
(1832-1888)

Feeling loved is linked with greater mental well-being... We don't want to just feel loved and connected, we want the same for those close to us.

Sarah Regan

Your accomplishments in business will not be on your tombstone. But your family will be.

—Senator Frank Lautenberg



I know of nothing more despicable and pathetic than a man who devotes all the hours of the waking day to the making of money for money's sake.

--John D. Rockefeller

I've learned through the years that it's not where you live, it's the people who surround you that make you feel at home.

—J. B. McGee

A man should never neglect his family for business.

—Walt Disney

To us, family means putting your arms around each other and being there.

—Barbara Bush

Cherish your human connections--your relationships with friends and family.

—Barbara Bush

In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future.

—Alex Haley

The family is the first essential cell of human society.

—Pope John XXIII

Family means no one gets left behind or forgotten.

—David Ogden Stiers

Home is where you are loved the most and act the worst.

—Marjorie Pay Hinckley

You are born into your family and your family is born into you. No returns. No exchanges.

—Elizabeth Berg

Home is people. Not a place. If you go back there after the people are gone, then all you can see is what is not there anymore.

—Robin Hobb

The most important thing in the world is family and love.

—John Wooden

In my childhood you'd gather around the grandparents and they would tell the family stories...Now individuals sit around the TV, watching other families' stories.

—Barry Levinson

If you want to summarize the changes in family structure over the past century, the truest thing to say is this: We've made life freer for individuals and more unstable for families. We've made life better for adults but worse for children. We've moved from big, interconnected, and extended families, which helped protect the most vulnerable people in society from the shocks of life, to smaller, detached nuclear families (a married couple and their children), which give the most privileged people in society room to maximize their talents and expand their options. The shift from bigger and interconnected extended families to smaller and detached nuclear families ultimately led to a familial system that liberates the rich and ravages the working-class and the poor.

—David Brooks

Corporate Families: social units organized around a family business. In 1800, 90 percent of American families were corporate families.

—Steven Ruggles

Extended families have two great strengths. The first is resilience. An extended family is one or more families in a supporting web. Your spouse and children come first, but there are also cousins, in-laws, grandparents—a complex web of relationships among, say, seven, 10, or 20 people. If a mother dies, siblings, uncles, aunts, and grandparents are there to step in. If a relationship between a father and a child ruptures, others can fill the breach. Extended families have more people to share the unexpected burdens—when a kid gets sick in the middle of the day or when an adult unexpectedly loses a job.

—David Brooks

This is the true nature of home — it is the place of Peace; the shelter, not only from all injury, but from all terror, doubt, and division. In so far as it is not this, it is not home; so far as the anxieties of the outer life penetrate into it, and the inconsistently-minded, unknown, unloved, or hostile society of the outer world is allowed by either husband or wife to cross the threshold, it ceases to be home; it is then only a part of that outer world which you have roofed over, and lighted fire in. But so far as it is a sacred place, a vestal temple, a temple of the hearth watched over by Household Gods, before those faces none may come but those whom they can receive with love, — so far as it is this, and roof and fire are types only of a nobler shade and light, — shade as of the rock in a weary land, and light as of the Pharos in the stormy sea; — so far it vindicates the name, and fulfills the praise, of home.

—John Ruskin

To be a young homeowner in a suburb like Elmhurst in the 1950s was to participate in a communal enterprise that only the most determined loner could escape: barbecues, coffee klatches, volleyball games, baby-sitting co-ops and constant bartering of household goods, child rearing by the nearest parents who happened to be around, neighbors wandering through the door at any hour without knocking—all these were devices by which young adults who had been set down in a wilderness of tract homes made a community. It was life lived in public.

—Alan Ehrenhalt

Married people are less likely to visit parents and siblings, and less inclined to help them do chores or offer emotional support. A code of family self-sufficiency prevails: Mom, Dad, and the kids are on their own, with a barrier around their island home.

—Mandy Len Catron

Affluent conservatives often pat themselves on the back for having stable nuclear families. They preach that everybody else should build stable families too. But then they ignore one of the main reasons their own families are stable: they can afford to purchase the support that extended family used to provide—and that the people they preach at, further down the income scale, cannot.

—David Brooks

The people who suffer the most from the decline in family support are the vulnerable—especially children. In 1960, roughly 5 percent of children were born to unmarried women. Now about 40 percent are. The *Pew Research Center* reported that 11 percent of children lived apart from their father in 1960. In 2010, 27 percent did. Now about half of American children will spend their childhood with both biological parents. Twenty percent of young adults have no contact at all with their father (though in some cases that's because the father is deceased). American children are more likely to live in a single-parent household than children from any other country.

—David Brooks

We all know stable and loving single-parent families. But on average, children of single parents or unmarried cohabiting parents tend to have worse health outcomes, worse mental-health outcomes, less academic success, more behavioral problems and higher truancy rates than do children living with their two married biological parents.

—David Brooks

Some people don't understand that sitting in your own house in peace eating snacks and minding your own business is priceless.

—*shortquotesworld.com*

Because groups that have endured greater levels of discrimination tend to have more fragile families, African Americans have suffered disproportionately in the era of the detached nuclear family. Nearly half of black families are led by an unmarried single woman, compared with less than one-sixth of white families. (The high rate of black incarceration guarantees a shortage of available men to be husbands or caretakers of children.)

—David Brooks

On the website CoAbode, single mothers can find other single mothers interested in sharing a home. All across the country, you can find co-housing projects, in which groups of adults live as members of an extended family, with separate sleeping quarters and shared communal areas.

—David Brooks

In the absence of the connection and meaning that family provides, unmarried men are less healthy—alcohol and drug abuse are common—earn less, and die sooner than married men.

—Kay Hymowitz

In the beginning was the band. For tens of thousands of years, people commonly lived in small bands of, say, 25 people, which linked up with perhaps 20 other bands to form a tribe. People in the band went out foraging for food and brought it back to share. They hunted together, fought wars together, made clothing for one another, looked after one another's kids. In every realm of life, they relied on their extended family and wider kin. Except they didn't define kin the way we do today. We think of kin as those biologically related to us. But throughout most of human history, kinship was something you could create.

—David Brooks

Since the 1970s, and especially since the 2008 recession, economic pressures have pushed Americans toward greater reliance on family. Starting around 2012, the share of children living with married parents began to inch up. And college students have more contact with their parents than they did a generation ago. We tend to deride this as helicopter parenting or a failure to launch, and it has its excesses. But the education process is longer and more expensive these days, so it makes sense that young adults rely on their parents for longer than they used to.

—David Brooks

Like their heterosexual counterparts, most gay men and lesbians insisted that family members are people who are 'there for you,' people you can count on emotionally and materially. 'They take care of me,' said one man, 'I take care of them.'

—Kath Weston

In 1980, only 12 percent of Americans lived in multi-generational households. But the financial crisis of 2008 prompted a sharp rise in multigenerational homes. Today 20 percent of Americans—64 million people, an all-time high—live in multigenerational homes.

—David Brooks  
(2020)

Despite the forces working to separate us—slavery, Jim Crow, forced migration, the prison system, gentrification—we have maintained an incredible commitment to each other. The reality is, black families are expansive, fluid, and brilliantly rely on the support, knowledge, and capacity of ‘the village’ to take care of each other. Here’s an illustration: The white researcher/social worker/whatever sees a child moving between their mother’s house, their grandparents’ house, and their uncle’s house and sees that as ‘instability.’ But what’s actually happening is the family (extended and chosen) is leveraging all of its resources to raise that child.

—Mia Birdsong

Nations where a fifth of the people live alone, like Denmark and Finland, are a lot richer than nations where almost no one lives alone, like the ones in Latin America or Africa. Rich nations have smaller households than poor nations. The average German lives in a household with 2.7 people. The average Gambian lives in a household with 13.8 people.

—David Brooks

Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.

--Napoléon Bonaparte

I am sure that if people had to choose between living where the noise of children never stopped and where it was never heard, all the good-natured and sound people would prefer incessant noise to incessant silence.

—George Bernard Shaw

Anxiety travels in families because it is contagious—from spouse to spouse, from child to parent, and especially from parent to child. More than half of children who live with an anxious parent end up meeting the criteria of an anxiety disorder themselves.

—Kate Julian

A family is a place where principles are hammered and honed on the anvil of everyday living.

—Charles Swindoll

American parents much more frequently emphasize individual attention, active interaction, and the developmental needs of the child...Dutch parents put their faith in regularity of habits (rest, quiet, and cleanliness) and family time together, especially around meals...One result of these different goals in households equally devoted to children's welfare was that American parents were often tired and appeared frazzled. They tended to complain about their children's sleeping habits and gave in to their demands because they were too exhausted to fight in the middle of the night.

—Sara Harkness and  
Charles Super

Other thing may change us, but we start and end with family.

—Anthony Brandt

Friends are the family we choose for ourselves.

—Edna Buchanan

There's a kind of emotional exploration you plumb with a friend that you don't really do with your family.

—Bette Midler

The home is the first and most effective place to learn the lessons of life: truth, honor, virtue, self control, the value of education, honest work, and the purpose and privilege of life. Nothing can take the place of home in rearing and teaching children, and no other success can compensate for failure in the home.

—David O. McKay

[Homeschooling]...recipe for genius: More of family and less of school, more of parents and less of peers, more creative freedom and less formal lessons.

—Raymond S. Moore

What is most important and valuable about the home as a base for children's growth into the world is not that it is a better school than the schools, but that it isn't a school at all.

—John Holt

Homeschooling and public schooling are as opposite as two sides of a coin. In a homeschooling environment, the teacher need not be certified, but the child **MUST** learn. In a public school environment, the teacher **MUST** be certified, but the child need **NOT** learn.

—Gene Royer

There is no school equal to a decent home and no teacher equal to a virtuous parent.  
—Gandhi

The home is the chief school of human virtues.

—William Ellery  
Channing

Built on a strong foundation of care and trust, families have the opportunity to fill the world around them with love. As members of a family pour into each other, they find their own cups spilling over. Any blessing we receive is meant to be passed on to others.

Family is more than blood. Families are made of those who you welcome in, share ‘silent unspeakable memories’ with, express vulnerability with, work to climb the highs and lows of life with, and who you love with all your heart.

Each moment is not perfect, because love is hard. Arguments arise, disagreements exist, and pain from the past has to be healed. It’s hard work, but it’s the most important part of life. This love extends far beyond the time spent together when children are young and into their whole lives.

Family is a truly beautiful thing.

—*showhope.org*

Westerners are hyper-individualistic and hyper-mobile, whereas just about everyone else in the world was and still is enmeshed in family and more likely to stay put. Westerners obsess more about personal accomplishments and success than about meeting family obligations (which is not to say that other cultures don’t prize accomplishments, just that it comes with the package of family obligations). Westerners identify more as members of voluntary social groups—dentists, artists, Republicans, Democrats, supporters of a Green Party—than of extended clans.

—Judith Shulevitz

When the right person hugs you, it’s like medicine. I’m so grateful for those few people in my life who are good for my soul.

—Steve Maraboli

For many Americans who don’t celebrate Christmas, sitting out the foofaraw while the whole country conducts Christmas consumption is an annual dose of alienation. For people who normally participate but suddenly find themselves unable to do so, the sense of detachment might even be more piercing for its novelty. Buying not just gifts, but decorations, sweets, and the trappings of a Christmas feast are deeply entrenched customs, and many Americans will want to hang on to those rituals.

—Amanda Mull

We can get too easily bogged down in the academic part of homeschooling, a relatively minor part of the whole, which is to raise competent, caring, literate, happy people.

—Diane Flynn Keith

It didn't matter how big our house was; it mattered that there was love in it.

—Peter Buffett

Home is a child's first and most important classroom.

—Hillary Rodham  
Clinton

Beautiful is the man who leaves a legacy that of shared love and life. It is he who transfers meaning, assigns significance and conveys in his loving touch the fine art and gentle shaping of a life. This man shall be called, Father.

—Stella Payton

Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present, and future.

—Gail Lumet Buckley

By home, we mean a place in which the mind can settle...a refuge to which we flee in the expectation of finding those calm pleasures, those soothing kindnesses, which are the sweetness of life.

—James Bean

I once asked one of my smaller children what he thought a home was and he replied, 'It's a place where you come in out of the rain.'

—Gigi Graham  
Tchividjian

Our family is a blessing  
It means so many things  
Words could never really tell  
The joy our family brings...  
Our family is heartfelt pride  
The feeling deep and strong  
That makes us glad to take a part  
And know that we belong.

—Margaret Fishback  
Powers



A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it.

—George Moore

When you look at your life,  
the greatest happinesses  
are family happinesses.

—Joyce Brothers

The home should be a warm sanctuary from the storms of life for each member of the family. A haven of love and acceptance. Not only children, but also parents, need this security.

—Gigi Graham  
Tchividjian

The word ‘tradition’ often is tied to holidays. But also consider building everyday traditions that help hold your family together....Go out to eat after church each week. Kiss each child before he leaves for school in the morning. Stay up late to talk to the teen who comes back after a date.

—Mary Manz Simon

I must go home periodically to renew my sense of horror.

—Carson McCullers

In order to enrich the ‘curriculum of the home,’ some parents:

- provide books, supplies, and a special place for studying,
- observe routine for meals, bedtimes and homework, and
- monitor the amount of time spent watching TV and doing after-school jobs.

Parents stay aware of their children’s lives at school when they:

- discuss school events,
- help children meet deadlines, and
- talk with their children about school problems and successes.

Research on both gifted and disadvantaged children shows that home efforts can greatly improve student achievement. For example, when parents of disadvantaged children take the steps listed above, their children can do as well at school as the children of more affluent families.

—*U.S. Department of  
Education—What  
Works*

If there's one thing I've learned over the eons, it's that you can't give up on your family, no matter how tempting they make it. It doesn't matter if they hate you, or embarrass you, or simply don't appreciate your genius for inventing the Internet.

—Rick Riordan

A house that has a library in it has a soul.

—Plato

Every traveler has a home of his own, and he learns to appreciate it the more from his wandering.

—Charles Dickens

A person is a person through other persons. None of us comes into the world fully formed. We would not know how to think, or walk, or speak, or behave as human beings unless we learned it from other human beings. We need other human beings in order to be human. I am because other people are. A person is entitled to a stable community life, and the first of these communities is the family.

—Desmond Tutu

The responsibilities of motherhood cannot be successfully delegated. No, not to day-care centers, not to schools, not to nurseries, not to babysitters. We become enamored with men's theories such as the idea of preschool training outside the home for young children. Not only does this put added pressure on the budget, but it places young children in an environment away from mother's influence. Too often the pressure for popularity, on children and teens, places an economic burden on the income of the father, so mother feels she must go to work to satisfy her children's needs. That decision can be most shortsighted. It is mother's influence during the crucial formative years that forms a child's basic character....How vital are mother's influence and teaching in the home—and how apparent when neglected!

—Ezra Taft Benson

Let woman out of the home, let man into it, should be the aim of education. The home needs man, and the world outside needs woman.

—Pearl S. Buck

All a child's life depends on the ideal it has of its parents. Destroy that and everything goes—morals, behavior, everything. Absolute trust in someone else is the essence of education.

—E. M. Forster

I've learned that home isn't a place, it's a feeling.

—Cecelia Ahern

Friends are God's way of apologizing for your family.

—Wayne W. Dyer

To be changed by ideas was pure pleasure. But to learn ideas that ran counter to values and beliefs learned at home was to place oneself at risk, to enter the danger zone. Home was the place where I was forced to conform to someone else's image of who and what I should be. School was the place where I could forget that self and, through ideas, reinvent myself.

—Bell Hooks

At many times throughout their lives, children will feel the world has turned topsy-turvy. It's not the ever-present smile that will help them feel secure. It's knowing that love can hold many feelings, including sadness, and that they can count on the people they love to be with them until the world turns right side up again.

—Fred Rogers

Independent study, community service, adventures and experience, large doses of privacy and solitude, a thousand different apprenticeships—the one-day variety or longer—these are all powerful, cheap, and effective ways to start a real reform of schooling. But no large-scale reform is ever going to work to repair our damaged children and our damaged society until we force open the idea of 'school' to include family as the main engine of education. If we use schooling to break children away from parents—and make no mistake, that has been the central function of schools since John Cotton announced it as the purpose of the Bay Colony schools in 1650 and Horace Mann announced it as the purpose of Massachusetts schools in 1850—we're going to continue to have the horror show we have right now.

—John Taylor Gatto

A *Pew Research* survey last summer found 52 percent of Americans between ages 18 and 29 were living with parents, a figure unmatched since the Great Depression. From February to July 2020, 2.6 million young adults moved back in with one or both parents. That's a lot of shared Netflix accounts. It's also a culture shift, says Karen Fingerma, director of the *Texas Aging & Longevity Center at the University of Texas* at Austin. 'After the family dinners, grandparents doing childcare, and the wise economic sense, it's going to be acceptable of adult family members to co-reside.

—David Hochman

Across the ages and regardless of geography, in everything that really matters, it bears repeating that we are all members of a SINGLE human family—a family of intrepid adventurers who have been exploring the world in one form or another for the best part of a million years. In the course of this long odyssey we've moved so far apart, across oceans, over mountains, and to the opposite ends of jungles, deserts, and ice caps that we've forgotten how closely related we in fact are.

—Graham Hancock

In the grand scheme of things, all human beings are part of the same family, regardless of origin. The divisions we have built between ourselves along the lines of race and geography are illusions. If our species is ultimately able to see past these biases, it will be our shared genetic stamp of humanness that will outlive the cultural contrivances that distract us in our day-to-day lives.

—Michael Crichton

I dreamed I stood in a studio  
And watched two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a young child's mind,  
They fashioned it with care.

One was a Teacher—  
The tools he used were books, music, and art.  
One was a Parent with a guiding hand,  
With a gentle loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled,  
With touch that was deft and sure;  
While the parent labored by his side  
To polish and smooth it over.

And when at last their task was done,  
They were proud for what they had wrought  
For the things they molded into the child  
Could neither be sold or bought.

Each agree he might have failed  
If he had worked alone  
For behind the parent stood a school  
And behind the teacher a home.

--Ray A. Lingenfelter

If life slowly parts us from our youthful gifts as we age, it is family who fill in our gaps and cushion our journey.

—Robert Love

Everybody has a home team: It's the people you call when you get a flat tire or when something terrible happens. It's the people who, near or far, know everything that's wrong with you and love you anyways. These are the ones who tell you their secrets, who get themselves a glass of water without asking when they're at your house. These are the people who cry when you cry. These are your people, your middle-of-the-night, no-matter-what people.

—Shauna Niequist

Home is more than a house. It is a sacred location, a place of aspiration and dreams, of learning and habit, of relationships and heart. Home is the geography of our souls.

—Diana Butler Bass

You're going to have lots of friends in your life, but your family will be yours for a lifetime. You won't always talk to each other. But even then, you'll love them. And if you need someone, that's who you'll call.

—Sharon Stone

Family mobility affects the following groups of people:

- Families. Frequent, unplanned moves cause stress on families, financial burdens, uncertain future living conditions, reduction in self-esteem, breakup of friendships, and changes of schools....
- Teachers. Mobility causes immense uncertainty in a classroom, since neither the teacher nor the students know who is going to be there on a day-to-day basis. Everything becomes temporary, and the teacher finds it difficult to build relationships with students and their parents. This frustration reduces the positive attitude that teachers need in order to teach and influence their students. This uncertainty takes away the excitement of watching a child develop, because that child will probably be gone in a short time.
- Students. Children of mobile families suffer the most, and they are the ones who have the least control over the situation. Mobile children lose friends; they may wake up uncertain where they will live or go to school that day; they may lose their confidence and self esteem. Life becomes a path of uncertainties and disappointments. Frustration develops, and hope is diminished.

—David B. Schuler

How come families are full of people that have no clue how they make each other feel?

—Kirsten Smith

One cannot be exploited or thwarted from nine to five, then come home and feel loving and lovable.

—Daniel Berrigan

Keeping up with the Joneses was a full-time job with my mother and father. It was not until many years later...that I realized how much cheaper it was to drag the Joneses down to my level.

—Quentin Crisp

If you're a CEO by age 40, but your kids don't want to talk to you, you're not a success.

—Christopher Reeve

There's an old saying—*There's No Place Like Home*. Well, I went in the house next door, and it was very similar.

—Jeffrey Parfitt

'Were you the oldest one in your family?'

'No, no. My mother and father were much older.'

—Gracie Allen

I love my family, but I hate family reunions. Family reunions are that time when you come face to face with your family tree and realize some branches need to be cut.

—Rene Hicks

I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes that has to go out and buy new ones.

—Diane Hodges

For decades, people have been exploring less traditional forms of relationship style. Societal views on cohabitation have become more favorable, and we are becoming more accustomed to varying familial paradigms. We are slowly understanding that there is no one-size-fits-all way of being in relationships.

—Antonia Hall

My plea...is a plea to save the children. Too many of them walk with pain and fear, in loneliness and despair. Children need sunlight...They need kindness and refreshment and affection. Every home, regardless of the cost of the house, can provide an environment of love which will be an environment of salvation.

—Gordon B. Hinckley

I can be a very generous sister—maternal, even—as long as I am winning.

—Jean Garnett

You can't create quality on the job if you don't create it equally in your personal life.

—Ann Cooper

The place of the father in the modern family is a very small one, particularly if he plays golf.

—Bertrand Russell

The home environment is a most powerful factor in determining the level of school achievement of students, student interest in learning, and the number of years of schooling the children will receive. It accounts for more of the student's motivation and learning than does the school curriculum or the quality of instruction in our schools.

—Benjamin Bloom

We will make no substantial, lasting improvement, I am convinced, until we realize that the roots of our students' deficiencies lie in their earliest years—in the family lives, not in our classrooms. It is not better curricula that American students need most; it is better childhoods.

—Sam Sava

Ohana means family. Family means no one gets left behind. Or forgotten.

—From the movie  
'Lilo & Stitch'

I...was...thinking that all there is to your family are your parents, brothers and sisters, and then you realize there's a whole stretch of history that is an extension of who you are.

—Loreena McKennitt

When I can no longer bear to think of the victims of broken homes, I begin to think of the victims of intact ones.

—Peter De Vries

We have no more right to steal the brightness out of the day for our own family than we have to steal the purse of a stranger.

—Laura Ingalls Wilder  
(1917)

The older I grow the more earnestly I feel that the few intense joys of childhood are the best that life has to give.

—Ellen Glasgow

One of the luckiest things that can happen to you in life is, I think, to have a happy childhood.

—Agatha Christie

What a difference it makes to come home to a child!

Margaret Fuller (1849)

Christmas...is not an external event at all, but a piece of one's home that one carries in one's heart: like a nursery story, its validity rests on exact repetition, so that it comes around every time as the evocation of one's whole life and particularly of the most distant bits of it in childhood.

—Freya Stark

Planning ahead is a measure of class. The rich and even the middle class plan for future generations, but the poor can plan ahead only a few weeks or days.

—Gloria Steinem

So apparently 50% of homeowners are hearing strange noises and hoping they are made by ghosts because I can't afford to fix them.

—<https://americasbestpics.com>

The most extraordinary thing in the world is an ordinary man and an ordinary woman and their ordinary children.

—G. K. Chesterton

The dinner table is the center for the teaching and practicing not just of table manners but of conversation, consideration, tolerance, family feeling, and just about all the other accomplishments of polite society except the minuet.

—Judith Martin

Healthy families are our greatest national resource.

—Dolores Curran



Domesticity is essentially drama, for drama is conflict, and the home compels conflict by its concentration of active personalities in a small area. The real objection to domesticity is that it is too exciting.

—Rebecca West

The family ate hugely, they were like a school of voracious fish feeding under the sea of chatter.

—Marjorie Kinnan  
Rawlings

That's something I've noticed about food: whenever there's a crisis if you can get people to eating normally things get better.

—Madeline L'Engle

We use eating as a medium for social relationships: satisfaction of the most individual of needs becomes a means of creating community.

—Margaret Visser

In society it is etiquette for ladies to have the best chairs and get handed things. In the home the reverse is the case. That is why ladies are more sociable than gentlemen.

—Virginia Graham

Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.

—Jane Howard

Every family is a 'normal' family—no matter whether it has one parent, two or no children at all. A family can be made up of any combination of people, heterosexual or homosexual, who share their lives in an intimate (not necessarily sexual) way....Wherever there is a lasting love, there is a family.

—Shere Hite

The particular human chain we are a part of is central to our individual identity even if we loathe our families, in order to know ourselves, we seem to need to know about them, just as prologue. Not to know is to live with some of the disorientation and anxiety of the amnesiac.

—Elizabeth Stone

A house with no fireplace is a house without a heart.

—Gladys Taber

Pluck from under the family all the props which religion and morality have given it, strip it of the glamour, true or false, cast round it by romance, it will still remain a prosaic, indisputable fact, that the whole business of begetting, bearing and rearing children, is the most essential of all the nation's businesses.

—Eleanor F. Rathbone

The great advantage of a living in a large family is that early lesson of life's essential unfairness.

—Nancy Mitford

Blacks concede that hurrawing, jibing, jiving, signifying, disrespecting, cursing, even outright insults might be acceptable under particular conditions, but aspersions cast against one's family call for immediate attack.

—Maya Angelou

Family life! The United Nations is child's play compared to the tugs and splits and need to understand and forgive in any family.

—May Sarton

Personal hatred and family affection are not incompatible; they often flourish and grow strong together.

—Willa Cather

Family life in America is a minefield, an economic trap for women, a study in disappointment for both sexes.

—Anne Roiphe

Unkindness is death to the home. One unkind, unsocial, critical, eternally dissatisfied member can destroy any family.

—Kathleen Norris

Chasten, my husband, pointed out that if our kids someday, some Monday morning, come into class, and kids are sitting around and the teacher's got the morning circle talking about how everybody's weekend went, and one of them says, 'I had the best weekend with my dads,' is the teacher supposed to say, 'No, we don't talk about that here?'

Any age where it's appropriate to talk about a kid's mom and dad, then it should be appropriate to talk about a kid's mom and mom or dad and dad or whatever family structure we live with. That's part of what it means to be pro-family, is to be pro-every family.

—Pete Buttigieg

The average family exists only on paper and its average budget is a fiction, invented by statisticians for the convenience of statisticians.

—Sylvia Porter

The seat of the greatest patriotic loyalties is in the stomach. Long after giving up all attachment to the land of his birth, the naturalized American citizen holds fast to the food of his parents.

—Vicki Baum

What mother and the daughter understand each other, or even have the sympathy for each other's lack of understanding?

—Maya Angelou

Total separation between parents and [adult] children is one of the great tragedies of our culture. Both generations really need the sustenance the other has to give and both are impoverished when the relationship does not continue.

—Adelaide Bry

Home is the definition of God.

—Emily Dickinson

No one...who has not known the inestimable privilege can possibly realize what good fortune it is to grow up in a home where there are grandparents.

—Suzanne LaFollette

I loved their home. Everything smelled older, worn but safe; the food aroma had baked itself into the furniture.

—Susan Strasburg on  
Grandparents

A house needs a grandma in it.

—Louisa May Alcott  
(1857)

Uncles, and aunts, and cousins, are all very well, and fathers and mothers are not to be despised; but a grandmother, at holiday time, is worth them all.

—Fanny Fern (1868)

A democratic home is the foundation of a democratic state.

—Agnes E. Benedict and  
Adele Franklin

Sweet is the hour that brings us home,  
Where all will spring to meet us;  
Where hands are striving, as we come,  
To be the first two greet us.

—Eliza Cook (1848)

A man builds a house in England with the expectation of living in it and leaving it to his children; while we shed our houses in America as easily as a snail does his shell.

—Harriet Beecher Stowe

A house is not a home.

—Polly Adler

There is, I suppose, no occupation in the world which has an influence on the efficiency and happiness of the members of nearly all other occupations so continuous and so permeating as that of the working housewife and the mother.

—Eleanor F. Rathbone  
(1924)

To be a housewife is to be a member of a very peculiar occupation, one with characteristics like no other. The nature of the duties to be performed, the method of payment, the form of supervision, the tenure system, the 'market' in which the 'workers' find 'jobs,' and the physical hazards are all very different from the way things are in other occupations.

—Barbara Bergmann

A man's home is his castle, and his wife is the janitor.

—Lucille Kallen

No longer will we [women] agree to protect the hearth at the price of extinguishing the fire within ourselves.

—Celia Gilbert

There's only one institution of importance in Italian-American life and that is the family.

—Eileen Riotto Sirey

There is no place in the world where courtesy is so necessary as in the home.

—Helen Hathaway

Humorous books for very young kids offer wonderful bonding opportunities. Especially at the end of the day, when everyone's tired, reading a book aloud is an easy way for families to just relax and laugh together. It's also a way to process complicated emotions.

—Abi Cushman

In the rush of complex modern living, we have a tendency to laugh at the 'bring-Papa-his-pipe-and slippers' approach to marriage—but most men are more than a little wistful at its demise. A man dreams of home as a haven and his wife as a romantic, fragrant creature who is most important goal in life is making him comfortable.

—Arlene Dahl

Lunatics are similar to designated hitters. Often an entire family is crazy, but since entire family can't go into the hospital, one person is designated as crazy and goes inside.

—Susanna Kaysen

If you go away from your own place and people—the place you spent your childhood in, all your life you'll be sick with homesickness and you'll never have a home. You can find a better place, perhaps, a way of life you like better, but the home is gone out of your heart, and you'll be hunting it all your life long.

—Mary O'Hara

Of two sisters  
one is always the watcher,  
one the dancer.

—Louise Glück

Sister define their rivalry in terms of competition for the gold cup of parental love. It is never perceived as a cup which runneth over, rather a finite vessel from which the more one sister drinks, the less is left for the others.

—Elizabeth Fishel

If sisters were free to express how they really feel, parents would hear this: 'Give me all the attention and all the toys and send Rebecca to live with Grandma.'

—Linda Sunshine

The peace and stability of a nation depend upon the proper relationships established in the home.

—Jade Snow Wong

In its effect on family relationships, and its facilitation of parental withdrawal from an active role in the socialization of their children, and in its replacement of family rituals and special events, television has played an important role in this disintegration of the American family.

—Marie Winn

Traditions are group efforts to keep the unexpected from happening.

--Barbara Tober

It has long been my belief that in times of great stress, such as a four-day vacation, the thin veneer of family unity wears off almost at once, and we are revealed in our true personalities.

—Shirley Jackson

The family goes on vacation to become a family again.

—Marni Jackson

By and large, mothers and housewives are the only workers who do not have regular time off. They are the great vacationless class.

—Anne Morrow  
Lindbergh

Most women without children spend much more time than men on housework; with children, they devote more time to both housework and child care. Just as there is a wage gap between men and women in the workplace, there is a 'leisure gap' between them at home. Most women work one shift at the office or factory and a 'second shift' at home.

--Arlie Hochschild

Any woman who has a career and a family automatically develops something in the way of two personalities, like two sides of a dollar bill, each different in design....Her problem is to keep one from draining the life from the other.

—Ivy Baker Priest

(In answer to the question, 'How can you be both a lawmaker and a mother?') I have a brain and a uterus, and I use both.

--Pat Schroeder

Ours was a storytelling family even in pleasing times, and in those days my parents looked on words as our sustenance, rich in flavor and wholesome for the soul.

—Natalie Kusz

I lived in the midst of an affectionate charming family, and I am sure that there is no greater obstacle to a person who is just beginning to write.

—Katherine Butler  
Hathaway

Some 27 percent of American adults are estranged from a family member, according to a survey by *Cornell University* sociologist Karl Pillemer. Whether your rift was caused by politics, unresolved childhood baggage or something else, move toward healing by reaching out and saying, ‘My relationship with you is more important than the topic we are disagreeing on.’ Mending your family feud will do more than resurrect your relationship; it may make you healthier.

—Amy Cameron  
O’Rourke

The best cities can increase a child’s future income by about 12 percent....I have estimated that some 25 percent—and possibly more—of the overall effects of a parent are driven by where that parent raises their child. In other words, this one parenting decision has much more impact than many thousands of others.

—Seth Stephens-  
Davidowitz

The most important variable in that happiness recipe, the ingredient with the most statistical variability, is where you live. If you live in an unhappy place, the best thing you can do is move to a happier place.

—Dan Buettner

It’s easy to worry about the small everyday decisions that crowd the life of parent entrepreneurs. So easy, in fact, that these worries can distract from an important truth—few things really matter for both you and your kid’s success. Which community you choose to live in is the exception. Spend way more mental energy getting that right and way less worrying about one more episode of Paw Patrol or whether to serve chicken nuggets for the third night in a row. You’ll free up a ton of mental space for both your business and your family.

—Jessica Stillman

It wouldn’t have been uncommon for a child up until the 1990s [in Sweden] to not be fed at a friend’s home....The practice had nothing to do with being cruel or inhospitable—it was a reflection of how Swedes viewed families. Eating was something that you did at home. You didn’t feed other people’s children—that would have been considered a sort of intrusion in another family’s life.

—Richard Tellström

A pet isn't just part of the family...They ARE family!

—Jim Hunt

Come home and bring your laundry....just come home. I don't understand the whole 'I got them to 18' method as a parent. Having children is a LIFETIME commitment. Maybe I'm just different but I want my kids to come take groceries and toilet paper out of my cabinets when they are 25. I want them to stop for dinner when it is their favorite meal at age 34. I want to watch their eyes sparkle when they are opening gifts they wanted for Christmas at 40. I want them to know I'm one call away and it doesn't stop at age 18. They are forever my kids, not temporary assignments! Always come HOME!!

—<https://americasbestpics.com>

People with siblings have better survival skills because they've had experience in physical combat, psychological warfare, and sensing suspicious activity.

—<https://americasbestpics.com>

The reason why our families are not the same anymore, is because we buried the ones who used to keep the family together.

—<https://americasbestpics.com>

At every age, family members contribute more to a person's sense of joy and sense of purpose than friends do. 'Family is the people you can rely on, the people who see you and accept you,' [Louise] Aronson says. But she also points out that 'family' can take on a broader definition for many people. If you're among the growing group of single older adults or if you find yourself low and close family, 'think about turning friends into your chosen family,' Aronson suggests.

—Sari Harrar

There is one problem that surpasses all others in its impact on men, women, and society. It is the father wound. We focus on the importance of mothers in determining the well-being of children. However, the father wound—resulting from the physical or emotional absence of the father—has been largely ignored. The father wound may be the most pervasive, most important, and least recognized problem facing men and their families today.... As a psychotherapist who has treated more than 30,000 men and women over my long career, I have seen the devastating impact absent fathers can have on the lives of their children and how the wounding causes problems at all stages of life. Boys and girls who experience the father wound often become adults who unknowingly wound their own children.

—Jed Diamond



There should be NO YELLING in the home unless there is a fire.

—David O. McKay

According to the *National Center for Fathering*, ‘More than 20 million children live in a home without the physical presence of a father. Millions more have dads who are physically present, but emotionally absent. If it were classified as a disease, fatherlessness would be an epidemic worthy of attention as a national emergency.’

—Jed Diamond

Growing up in Omaha, Nebraska, and the ’80s and ’90s, my sister Becca, and I didn’t appreciate my mom’s entertaining skills as much as we do now. Hosting a large Thanksgiving feast or Passover Seder seemingly didn’t phase her. She relished in family traditions and rituals.

We’d do our part by setting the tables for company. Becca and I would delight in our mom’s vintage Lennox China, a rare combination of the Autumn and Westchester patterns made between 1918 and 1930. We’d handle the gold-rimmed plates carefully, trailing our fingers over the raised fruit and playfully joking that, someday, the plates would be one of ours. A healthy sibling rivalry.

Our mom, Ann Goldstein, died in 2011. When we cleaned out our parents’ house, we decided that the embattled china set would stay with my dad until one of us concedes. (It won’t be me!) The plates serve as a reminder that you never know when memories are being made and what children will look back on with such fondness. I never imagined it’d be sitting on the table.

—Deb Baum

Family separation among slaves in America was shockingly prevalent. Slavery devastated not just individual victims but entire families. ‘Grandmother drowned herself in the river when she heard that grand-pap was going away,’ recalled Mary James, a former slave, in 1937 about the sudden sale of her grandfather.

Separation of slave families was routine in the antebellum American South. ‘Don’t buy families,’ Theophilus Freeman, a slave trader in New Orleans, once wrote to a colleague, ‘as there is not a single [customer] here to buy’ intact families. Good data on the frequency of this practice are hard to find. In a sample of nearly 1,500 interviews with freed slaves in the 1930s, 40% of those born as slaves in two-parent households said they had lost a parent (via separation or death) by the age of 20. But the new dataset suggests that this estimate may be too low.

—*The Economist*

(June 18, 2022)

Chance made us sisters. Hearts made us friends.

—Zig Ziglar

If you were offered 900 million to sell a family member, who would you sell?  
Is this per family member???

—*theChive*

The most common mass killings, [Jillian] Peterson said, are those that typically get the least public attention: household killings, in which someone kills their relatives and then themselves.

In that sense, those mass killings have something in common with most other gun violence in America—people tend to know their killers, according to FBI data.

‘Commonly, the victim and the perpetrator know each other or know about each other,’ [Richard] Berk said. ‘They’re not total strangers. It makes it even more sad.’

—Mark Berman, Lenny  
Bernstein, Dan  
Keating, Andrew  
Ba Tran and Artur  
Galocha

Once upon a time! When Window was just a square hole in a room and Application was something written on a paper. When Keyboard was a Piano and Mouse just an animal. When File was an important office material and Hard Drive just an uncomfortable road trip. When Cut was done with knife and Paste with glue. When Web was a spider’s home and Virus was flu. When Apple and Blackberry were just fruits—that’s when we had a lot of time for family and friends.

—Internet Meme

If I live in a household where my parents are professionals and well-educated, the resources I have—the books I have access to, visited to museums, trips I go on—are going to be substantial. It’s no wonder that giftedness is connected to socioeconomic status.

—Frank Worrell

People with siblings have better survival skills because they’ve had experience in physical combat, psychological warfare, and sensing suspicious activity.

—Internet Meme

Not being biologically related to someone doesn’t make you any less ‘family.’ Being a real family isn’t in the DNA, it’s in the heart.

—Internet Meme

Stop asking my 12 year old if he has a girlfriend.

He is 12.

He is a child who likes comic books and screaming outside for no reason.

Relationships are not for children.

Also stop telling kids 'you're so cute/ handsome/beautiful. I bet all the boys/ girls will be trying to date you!'

How about 'you're so kind, you have such a great sense of humor.'

If you want a society that goes more than skin deep, you have to change the language and the culture starting at home.

—Internet Meme

We have to break this cycle, back up, regroup, and bring some sanity to our lives so we'll have the perspective, energy, and compassion for the people we see each day, and especially those who live under the same roof with us. Then we can love them like we love ourselves.

—Zig Ziglar

How many writers have ever been good family men? In recalling biographies, one finds that their number is minuscule.

—Vincent Sheean

**WHY AUNTS ARE SO IMPORTANT IN THEIR NIECES AND NEPHEW'S LIVES.**

Who says that grandparents and parents are the only important figures in a child's life? Aunts also play a very important role in the upbringing of their nieces and nephews. Children have their parents to raise them and teach them values, but aunts practically take on the role of second mothers. They're always there when their nephews and nieces need them. The relationship between children and their aunts is truly a close one. When mom is tired, an aunt is always ready to jump in and spend time with her little loved one.

—Internet Meme

8-year-old: \*fights with her sisters\*

Me: All right, who started it?

8: You did when you had so many kids.

—James Breakwell

[My therapist:] Even though they're family, you're allowed to cut them out if they are unhealthy for you to be around.

—*BuzzFeed.com*  
Contributor

In 2020...about 67 million Americans were estranged from a family member.

—Carl Pillemer

We didn't know our clothes were hand-me-downs or our home was not a mansion. We had our family and our friends and we lived in the best place ever—innocence.

—Internet Meme

The family with a large, well-read library usually is indeed a family of high intellectual attainment, and at least some influence. Some, however, seek shortcuts. A high administrative officer of one of the largest universities in the East bought a large house befitting his eminence. Since he wanted his new home to convey to visitors a sense of high intellectuality, he went to a local bookstore and placed a large order for used books by 'good' authors. He proposed to pay for them by the yard.

—Vance Packard

I wish my siblings would stop calling me 'spoiled' just because I'm the baby of the family. The fact is, my parents kept having children until they found one they liked. It is so not my issue.

—<https://americasbestpics.com>

Sons reflect parents to a remarkable degree in their values about life.

—Joseph A. Kahl

Tradition is just peer pressure from dead people.

—Laura Greenwood

High academic achievers were 2.3 times as likely to be firstborn as lastborn. Rebels were twice as likely to be lastborn as firstborn. And when asked to write about the few most rebellious or unconventional things they had ever done in their lives, laterborns had longer responses and described more unconventional behaviors. Hundreds of studies point to the same conclusion: although firstborns tend to be more dominant, conscientious, and ambitious, laterborns are more open to taking risks and embracing original ideas. Firstborns tend to defend the status quo; laterborns are inclined to challenge it.

—Adam Grant

A perfect house, whether you like food or sleep or story-telling or singing, or just sitting and thinking best, or a pleasant mixture of them all. Merely to be there was a cure for weariness, fear, and sadness.

—J. R. R. Tolkien

A home that nourishes life embraces the little moments and appreciates the rhythmic seasons of life, including the time necessary to cook real food from scratch...It doesn't have to take too much time, however, with efficient menu planning and wisely planned trips to the grocery store and farmers' market.

The payoffs are astronomical—better health, good stewardship of our environment, and setting a good example for our children are just a few of the benefits. It also fosters an appreciation of the ebbs and flows of seasons because you'll be using fresh ingredients that are more readily available (and of higher quality) when they are in season. If you feel too busy to cook from scratch, then I argue that you're too busy, period. Reevaluate your priorities and commitments. If you want to live a healthy, long life and to pass the same luxury on to your children, then you MUST take the time to cook real food.

—Tsh Oxenreider

The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together.

—Erma Bombeck

Let us be different in our homes. Let us realize that along with food, shelter, and clothing, we have another obligation to our children, and that is to affirm their 'rightness.' The whole world will tell them what's wrong with them—out loud and often. Our job is to let our children know what's right about them.

--Adele Faber and Elaine  
Mazlish

The shared meal is no small thing. It is a foundation of family life, the place where our children learn the art of conversation and acquire the habits of civilization: sharing, listening, taking turns, navigating differences, arguing without offending. What have been called the 'cultural contradictions of capitalism'—its tendency to undermine the stabilizing social forms it depends on—are on vivid display today at the modern American dinner table, along with all the brightly colored packages that the food industry has managed to plant there.

—Michael Pollan

I don't know what it is about food your mother makes for you, especially when it's something that anyone can make—pancakes, meat loaf, tuna salad—but it carries a certain taste of memory.

—Mitch Albom

The first thing the boy Garion remembered was the kitchen at Faldor's farm. For all the rest of his life he had a special warm feeling for kitchens and those peculiar sounds and smells that seemed somehow to combine into a bustling seriousness that had to do with love and food and comfort and security and, above all, home. No matter how high Garion rose in life, he never forgot that all his memories began in that kitchen.

—David Eddings

I do love my family, but I really just go for the food.

—Julia Quinn

When we traded homemaking for careers, we were implicitly promised economic independence and worldly influence. But a devil of a bargain it has turned out to be in terms of daily life. We gave up the aroma of warm bread rising, the measured pace of nurturing routines, the creative task of molding our families' tastes and zest for life; we received in exchange the minivan and the Lunchable.

—Barbara Kingsolver

Home is not a place but a person.

—Bono

Stop telling me he's just a dog. My dog has more personality, integrity, empathy and loyalty than most people I know. He's family.

—Internet Meme

I recently noticed that whenever life was getting me down, I'd usually find a dollar in my pocket the next day. I told my parents how weird it was and they told me my little sister puts a dollar in one of my pockets when she knows I'm sad to help cheer me up, and now I'm crying.

—*theChive* Contributor

When faced with a challenge, happy families, like happy people, just add a new chapter to their life story that shows them overcoming the hardship.

—C. JoyBell C.

Kids' rooms get messy because it exists for them to play in. The kitchen gets covered in flour because that's what it's for. The yard fills with toys because it's meant for adventures. Remember, the house is meant to be utilized. Not displayed.

—Internet Meme

If you woke up healthy in a warm home with running water, electricity and food for your table you are already incredibly blessed.

—Internet Meme

Daughter: 'Mom, what's it like to have the greatest daughter in the world?'

Mom: 'I don't know, honey, you'll have to ask Grandma.'

—Internet Meme

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