



5 things you should know when your parent goes back to school

Written by Josephine May
Illustrated by Kate Delahunty

Okay so here it is - all I've learned about what happens to your world when your mother or father decides that what they need to do on top of everything else they are supposed to do - like hold down a job, do the shopping, do the housework, look after the kids for example - that they ALSO need to go back to school to get a university education.

This happened to my family when my mother decided that she needed more to do. She needed in fact to be an even better 'example' to me by going to university in her old age. It seems she felt that I don't seem to have enough ambition for myself. Anyway she also wants a better life for us all by getting a fabulously well paid job that she will really enjoy doing - for a change. The money if it ever appears will be welcome!

Our lives in the process of the
MOTHER GOING TO UNI went
ballistic and now that she is almost
finished her degree, I am passing on
my wisdom about this seriously
unsettling experience ...

... I mean she started when I was in
Year 8 and now I am about to go into
my HSC year, and she's **STILL** not
finished - I am telling you it's
turning into a life sentence for all
of us.

Anyway the **TOP FIVE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW** When Your Parent Goes Back to School, are:

1. The food actually **IMPROVES** - instead of the food police pushing fruit, vegetables (usually raw) and lots of other crappy stuff every hour of the day ...



...we get to eat
way more take away,
more fish fingers and
more noodles - the
Olds are too busy
to care - so it's
not all bad!



2. I'm happy to report that there's less talk about the 'STATE OF YOUR ROOM'

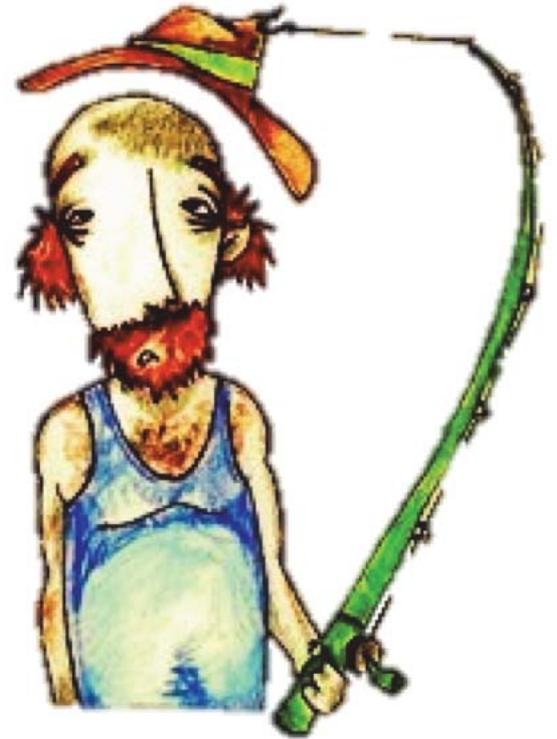
- before my parent became a student, there was constant talk about 'doing something' about my laziness and my untidiness especially what was supposed to be in my very own private space.



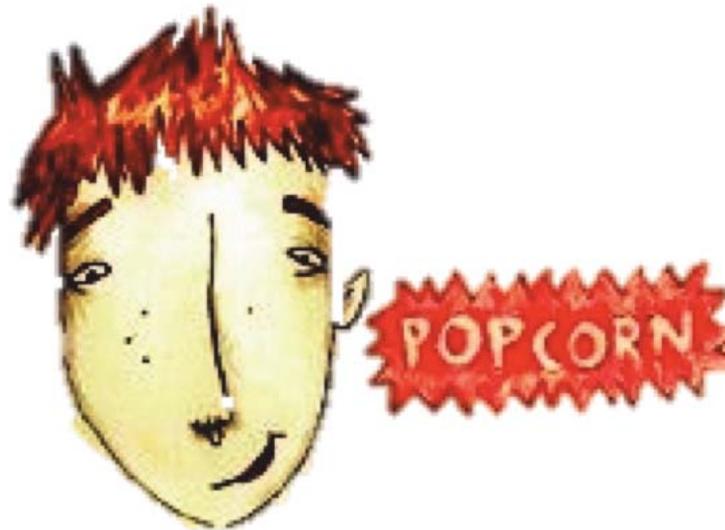
I am pleased to report that the police state has too much to do - like essays and reading for tutorials and just getting some shut eye so I am a happy camper.

3. There's a marked reduction in the so-called **FAMILY HOLIDAY** - yay! We still pack up the car occasionally and go away for what the Olds call 'Quality Time' and the three of us kids (from the back seat of the car) call **'Hell on Earth'**

... but these are usually bearable because they are shorter and while the FATHER has gone fishing ...



... the MOTHER is still reading her uni textbooks usually and they are both happy to see us off to the movies with some money in our pockets.



How cool is that?



4. On the minus side I don't get to use my computer as much ... and since she's been a student and has to use the computer herself, the Uber Mother has learned more about technology, so I can no longer fool her with my techy speak ... she actually knows now how to turn the thing on and off herself!

So be very afraid - **Big Parent Is Watching!**



S. Beware as well that there's going to be a lot more discussion about **EVERYTHING.**

I used to be able to get away with my usual one word response or grunt, now it's 'what do you mean?' and 'have you thought about ...' and 'I was reading the other day that ...'

... so try to have a full sentence ready and a busy schedule when you see your uni parent coming with their questions ... it's the only way to survive.

So there they are, the top five. If you know any other things about this weird parentness thing about getting more education, please send them to me. I am thinking of starting a club actually - I think I'll call it **Children of Uni Students** or **CUS**.



I will say though as a final thought that there is no doubt that **my Old Cheese** is really enjoying her studies.

She's definitely much happier and that's probably the top good thing about having a parent at uni.



Also I've been out to the uni with her a couple of times and it is a really cool place - it's like a little city and there are guys who skateboard from one class to another - amazing when you consider that my school won't let us use our skateboards anywhere.

Don't tell her, but I am actually seriously considering going to uni myself now I can see what it's like - and that the students aren't all old like my mum, many of them are young and some of the girls look seriously hot



... but that's another story.

Catchya

Jake

This story was based on the accumulated interviews with students and their families (not to mention, the life experience of the author), but I am especially indebted to one young man whose mother brought him to university. There he saw some guys skateboarding to and from classes and he thought that was excellent.

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