

# Mum's the word



**'Think before you post!'**  
is the advice of our parenting columnist this month.

**T**hink back to when you were a kid; did your mother ever photocopy your school report several hundred times then post it out to all her friends, colleagues and family? Did she ever call over to your neighbours' houses to show them what she'd made you for supper?

Of course she didn't, that would be ridiculous! But isn't that exactly what we do when we share everything our kids do on Facebook? We're all guilty of it to some degree, I know I am, but some people take it just a tad too far, others just miss the point.

**I think we all know who I'm talking about, but to help I've compiled a list of the top five offenders:**

1) The indirect show-off: This is the mummy who posts what on the surface are pretty innocuous updates, but which contain barely-concealed brags, for example -

***"Waiting outside in the Range Rover for Xavier to finish chess club b-o-o-o-r-i-n-g!"***

There is absolutely no point to this post other than to brag that Xavier plays chess and that she has a Range Rover and really, how does one respond to this?

2) The head-in-the-sand mum: These mums post 'hilarious' updates about their monstrous children, unaware that we are reading them in horror.

This one's real - ***'What a day!!! Started with Freddie messing with the hand-***

***break and rolling the car into the house (minor damage to car, house OK). Next he ran away from me in the mall, stole an expensive train set from Toys R Us, and then went and asked a security guard to take him home! Got home and he'd hidden my house keys and wouldn't tell me where they were, had to wait two hours for hubby to get home to let us in LOL! #mylittlemonkey!'***

No, Freddie's not a little monkey, he's a psychopath.

3) The self-obsessed grudge-holder: We all know this woman; this is the person whose (perfectly charming) child has received a certificate for being polite, or helpful, or colouring within the lines, but who chooses to tell the world by posting the certificate along with the words -

***'People like to judge me, but I must be doing something right!'***

She has just missed a genuine opportunity to praise her child, choosing instead to make a point to some nameless people out there who probably aren't even reading.

4) The documentary-maker: This mummy posts absolutely everything her child does, and not just photos, I'm talking proper video footage uploaded onto Facebook throughout her day.

For example, a trip to McDonald's will be accompanied by a clip entitled - ***"My CRAZY little Casey scoffing her Happy Meal! YUM-YUM!"*** accompanied by three minutes of footage of Casey eating a bag of

chips while wearing a docile expression. This is over-sharing of the worst kind. If you want close family and friends to know what you're doing, then email them with this stuff directly, because quite honestly the rest of us really aren't interested.

5) The serial inspirational poster: This person rarely has anything to say personally, but likes to guilt us into 'liking' the barrage of posters they post each day, as if the simple act of posting makes them a better parent. You know the posts I'm talking about; they usually feature a photo of a sunset with inspirational words like 'If you love your children unconditionally and would do anything for them, even if it means going without, then repost this.'

As a rule I ignore these posts, but can't help but feel that by not reposting I'm basically admitting that no, I do not love my children unconditionally, nor would I do anything for them and definitely won't go without for them. Which makes me feel bad. Briefly.

Look, parenting can be hard, and we all need a little recognition now and then - I get that. These posts and updates - and more to the point the 'likes' and comments which follow them - reassure us we're doing a good job, even if they come from people we've only met once. Or never. Or don't like. But next time you feel compelled to post a photo of Cressida's organic lunch, or to tell everyone that Tarquin is a genius, try the CIF test first; is it cute, interesting or funny? If not, step away from the 'post' button!

Written by Claire Calvey  
claireyourletterbox.co.uk