

BY Liane Kupferberg Carter

## **You Know You Are a Mother When...**

1. You count the sprinkles on each kid's cupcake to make sure they're equal.
2. You want to take out a contract on the kid who broke your son's favorite toy car and made him cry.
3. You have time to shave only one leg at a time.
4. You hide in the bathroom to be alone.
5. Your child throws up and you catch it.
6. Someone else's kid throws up at a party. You keep eating.
7. You consider finger paints to be a controlled substance.
8. You've mastered the art of placing large quantities of pancakes and eggs on a plate without anything touching.
9. Your child insists that you read *once Upon a Potty* out loud in the lobby of Grand Central Terminal and you do it.
10. You cling to the high moral ground on toy weapons; your child chews his toast into the shape of a gun.
11. You hope ketchup *is* a vegetable, since it's the only one your child eats.
12. You manage not to laugh when your 5-year-old son confides his suspicion that his penis has bones inside.
13. You convince your child that FAO Schwarz is a toy *museum*, not a store.
14. You can't bear the thought of your son's first girlfriend.
15. You hate the thought of his wife even more.
16. You find yourself cutting your husband's sandwiches into unusual shapes.
17. You marvel that your kids are always the cutest – and best dressed.
18. You fast-forward through the scene when the hunter shoots Bambi's mother.
19. You become a member of three aquariums because your kid loves sharks.
20. You obsess when your child clings to you upon parting during his first month at school, then obsess when he skips in without looking back the second month.
21. You can't bear to give away baby clothes – it's so final.
22. You hear your mother's voice coming out of your mouth when you say, '*Not* in your good clothes.'
23. You stop criticizing the way your mother raised you.
24. You lose sleep.
25. You donate to charity in the hope that your child won't get that disease.
26. You stop jaywalking.
27. You use your own saliva to clean your child's face.
28. You read that the average 5-year-old asks 437 questions a day and feel proud that your kid is "above average.'
29. You hire a sitter because you haven't been out with your husband in ages, then spend half the night checking on the kids.
30. You say at least once a day, "I'm not cut out for this job," but you know you wouldn't trade it for anything.