



Debbie's devotion to her children's happiness motivates any decisions concerning her own future.

more money, but because I have far fewer responsibilities.

Coming from a woman who suddenly finds herself mother and father to her children, this will need an explanation!

Of course my children were, are, and always will be my biggest responsibility, but this kind of responsibility is not work. It's not like running a house for a husband, like entertaining a dozen people on short notice, like having two different careers and two different schedules in one household, like having guests three and four times a week.

I could never casually delegate responsibility for those things to our housekeeper or maid. I always wanted to know what happened, to plan the menus and set the tables.

I no longer have that problem. Life at home has become far more casual. I no longer have any concern about being a hostess. During the past year-and-a-half, I've given exactly two small dinner parties. And frankly, I don't miss the crowds. I do enough socializing all day long.

I still have a nurse and a housekeeper, and

my brother Bill lives with us and is quite capable of taking care of all the little things that need fixing. Whether a gatepost topples over or a toy has to be glued together, "Uncle Bill" is always ready and eager to help.

**O**F COURSE, there's always the danger for any working mother that whoever looks after the children in her absence might alienate their feelings. It happened to me a couple of years ago when I had five nurses within 11 months. But now, I'm happy to say, I have a very harmonious household staff.

Before I hired my present nurse, I interviewed a different girl every couple of hours for three days. Finally I selected one girl and asked her to spend the week end with us to see how she would get along with Carrie and Todd. Even after I hired her, I stayed home for three days to help her get acquainted with the children. When I went back to work, I asked my former nurse, who left to get married, to come back for two weeks. Then Mother stayed another week before I entrusted my children to the new girl.

(Continued)

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**PHOTO CREDITS:**

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## OH, MY ACHING BACK

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