

are you winning at parenting?



We all falter or get lazy. But is this fumbling a pattern or can you get ahead? Inversely, do you march on cheerfully even when no one's looking? Take our quiz to know how you fare on that everyday test called parenthood.

by **RITIKA JAIN**

Tick the boxes which make you go 'Hey, I'm guilty of that' even if you've done it just once. No cheating!

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Stealthily buried the kids' artwork in the recycle bin despite knowing that they are attached to it. | <input type="checkbox"/> for a very important test. | <input type="checkbox"/> Procrastinated on your kids dental appointment till it was too late to save the tooth. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Followed the myth that it's okay to eat something you dropped but picked up again within 5 seconds. | <input type="checkbox"/> Are responsible for the kids learning some colourful language. | <input type="checkbox"/> Taken three holidays a year, all minus the kids. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Let the kids try Bailey's or wine, just a sip or two. | <input type="checkbox"/> Having a WhatsApp group where most conversation revolves around teacher-bashing. | <input type="checkbox"/> Stolen from their piggy bank to pay the laundry bill. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Packed them a Maggi sandwich for lunch. | <input type="checkbox"/> Let the kid go to school on an empty stomach. | <input type="checkbox"/> Not kept your kid's secret very secret. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lied to the paediatrician about giving them Iron tonic. | <input type="checkbox"/> Picked up a playground fight on behalf of your little one. | <input type="checkbox"/> Gave your kid expired medicine by mistake. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wished that endless chant 'mommy mommy mommy' would stop because you were too hung-over to respond. | <input type="checkbox"/> Let the kid microwave his own food without any sort of supervision. | <input type="checkbox"/> Hired a professional to make the kid's summer homework project. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taken them for an adult movie because you didn't have a babysitter. | <input type="checkbox"/> Given in to the demand for a cola at every meal. | <input type="checkbox"/> To your horror, lost your kid at a crowded place. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wrote an absent note because you forgot to make your kid revise | <input type="checkbox"/> Made fun of your kid (in jest) in front of his friends. | <input type="checkbox"/> Hogged the best flavours in the chocolate box yourself. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Not changed the bedsheets in Kiddo's room till they changed their colour. | <input type="checkbox"/> Faked a headache so the dad could handle Kiddo for a while. |

Now again, tick the boxes for stuff you know you've done. Don't be humble this time.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Breastfed for 6 months or more. | <input type="checkbox"/> Made surprise treats for your kid. | <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraged them to write to their grandparents or aunt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Made your own car or doll house out of cardboard boxes. | <input type="checkbox"/> Been hugged by your child's BFFs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Collected shells or built sand castles together at a beach. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraged your kid to try different cuisines. | <input type="checkbox"/> Were present at all PTA meetings. | <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoyed a rapport with all of the subject teachers. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invited the neighbourhood kids over for a homemade meal. | <input type="checkbox"/> Driven your kid to his weekly tennis or piano class. | <input type="checkbox"/> Made eye contact whenever your kid speaks with you. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stayed up beside her all night to attend to a fever. | <input type="checkbox"/> Indulged in pretend play with your kid with dolls or cars. | <input type="checkbox"/> Never stopped your kid from connecting with relatives you don't have a rapport with. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded all the poems your kids make up and framed their artwork. | <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoyed a rain bath with your kids. | <input type="checkbox"/> Indulged her with stories of family history from both sides. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kept well organized medical files for every member of the family. | <input type="checkbox"/> Re-read your kid's favourite storybook 50 times. | <input type="checkbox"/> Bought them meaningful presents for no reason at all. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Always ready to indulge in a craft session with your kid, anytime. | <input type="checkbox"/> Kissed away the hurt. | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Taught your kid to tie shoelaces. | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Raised kids who love sprouts as much as ice creams. | |

TALLY YOUR TICKS For every tick in the upper box, give yourself a score of minus 2. With each tick in the lower box, you score 3 points, because the positives are more powerful than the negatives. At the end, if you have points in minus, you're a certified mediocre mom. Buck up, lady! **0-30** points reflect you're not doing so bad. But improvement is due. **30-45** points mean you are one cool mom. Your kids love you! **45 or more** points say it loud that you exceed expectations, and your family should worship you. Hail mommy!