



Starbucks role for Mums

LAURETTE ZJEMER
l.zjemer@works@mitor.co.uk

MUMS struggle to find jobs that fit around the kids but one mum, Cathy Barwise, has it completely sussed.

She runs a busy Starbucks in Liverpool during her working day but still manages to spend plenty of quality time with her husband and three-year-old daughter Meadow.

"I've got a fantastic rota system which is so flexible I can handle anything," laughs Cathy, 34.

"The juggling can get complicated at times but that comes with the territory. The key is that I know my bosses support me in any way they can."

The good news is, from today, other mums can get the same

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY WAY TO BRING IN THE BUCKS

chances as Cathy. The coffee giant, which has 670 stores nationwide, is launching a campaign specifically to recruit mothers.

It's unveiled a new careers website, <http://careers.starbucks.co.uk>, and promises to recruit in new ways such as through www.workingmums.co.uk to ensure that mums are able to spot jobs much more easily.

Having the nation's mums on-board is a win/win for everyone, says Starbucks.

Not only have the cafe chain realised that this multi-tasking

army work hard in exchange for the right hours but they've discovered that mums bring with them a real sense of community spirit and can help draw customers in. Customers like seeing a friendly local face, who can serve their daily caffeine shots with charm and expertise.

RESPECT

"We want more people who share our values and want to be part of a great team to consider a career at Starbucks, and that includes mums," says Sandra

Porter from Starbucks. "Their links to the community bring our stores closer to their neighbourhoods."

Cathy, who has worked for Starbucks for 12 years, is not surprised that mums are getting the respect they're due from her bosses.

"I had no worries whatsoever when I took my maternity leave," she says. "After I had Meadow I was actually looking forward to getting back to work."

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THE RIGHT HELP

"MANY mums are nervous about coming back to work, especially if they've been off a long time," says Cathy. "Maybe start off with just a few hours until you've got used to the juggling." Another confidence and CV-boosting option is to get a qualification. Options range from adult numeracy and literacy classes and IT courses to NVQs and degree-level qualifications. Rest of all, you don't need to worry about how much

your learning will cost. In many cases, funding is available to cover part or all of your learning. A good place to start is a local learndirect centre. Visit www.learndirect.co.uk or call 0800 101 901. The Careers Advice Service also has Careers Coaches on hand for those wanting to return to work. Visit <http://careersadvice.direct.gov.uk> or call 0800 100 900. Also talk to experts at your local job centre. Visit www.direct.gov.uk/employment

DON'T UNDERSSELL YOURSELF

AS Starbucks recognises, mums have a great deal to offer. Look at what you've been doing while at home and identify your strengths and workplace skills. These might include:

- * Managing a household budget
- * Volunteering at a playgroup.
- * Running a school fete and helping at school functions.
- * Catering for large gatherings.
- * Working on a school committee.
- * Publicising and marketing events.

BACK TO WORK ADVICE

1. KNOW your rights. Parents of children under 17 (six in Northern Ireland) have the right to ask for flexible working if they have worked for the company for six months. The request does not have to be granted but bosses must give valid reasons if they refuse. (Visit www.adviceguide.org.uk.)

2. IGNORE research that reveals the "devastating" effect working mothers

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