

THE SECTION THAT HELPS YOU FIND WORK

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THINK management consultancy and you probably think long hours, a male-dominated office and weekend work.

Not so! Global management consultancy firm Accenture has just been voted the best place for parents to work by employment agency workingmums.co.uk.

Accenture topped the poll for allowing parents to work from home, while other winners included accountants KPMG for helping mums adjust their jobs and John Lewis for maintaining staff's work-life balance.

Equalities Minister Lynne Featherstone, below, says: "The Government is taking action to make the workplace a fairer and more family-friendly place."



JOB

PRESENTS website findmeagift.com want a merchandiser, writing, PR, search engine optimisation staff. To apply, email jobs@findmeagift.com with a covering letter and your CV.

SPOT

COSMETIC surgery clinic Transform need five staff for their Manchester call centre.

The jobs are a mixture of full-time and bank staff work, which would suit lone parents.

Employees need to be sympathetic and good with people, as you'll be the first person a patient speaks to.

The basic salary is £15,000 but you can

GOING back to work after looking after kids can be daunting, but help is at hand.

Lone parents can chat through their options with adult careers service Next Step.

Whether you want to talk on the phone, have a face-to-face chat or look online, the team can show you how to update your skills and make the most of every career opportunity.

Figures show skilled workers earn up to £450 more per week than unskilled people.

Register online at the secure website direct.gov.uk/nextstep, which helps you assess your skills, build a CV, find a suitable course and see if you qualify for extra cash as you train.

Or call 0800 100 900 between 8am and 10pm, seven days a week, to make an appointment.

TWO thirds of UK workers have a male manager – but more of us believe women bosses are best.

Just a quarter of employees prefer to work for a man, with 38 per cent wishing for a woman in charge. The rest don't mind if their gaffer is a girl or a bloke.

A quarter of workers think women are more assertive than men, while three in five agreed

female bosses were standing, reveal HR firm Reabur.c

The poll of found one in five relationship with while 28 per cent woman got on w

But while half respected their 42 per cent said women manager

Mother Low

WHY FIRMS ARE WOOING SINGLE PARENTS

NEW rules in force from this week mean single parents must go back to work when their youngest child turns seven.

The Government hopes the move will lift 15,000 kids out of poverty.

Ministers have promised lone mums and dads will receive extra help in finding work, with training and grants.

But if you've been at home looking after kids for several years, getting a new job can seem terrifying.

Many firms, however, want to recruit parents. They see having kids as an asset for staff. Tesco, Sainsbury's, M&S and John Lewis all offer family-friendly hours, as do most banks and phone companies. Call centres and service stations need flexible workers and there are hundreds of opportunities for teaching assistants.

More corporate firms such as BT offer work from home deals and websites such as workingmums.co.uk, jobs4mothers.com and mforworkingmums.co.uk all list family-flexible jobs.

Here three single mums describe their work experiences...

Dawn Froom, 46, is a travel adviser at the Thomson Superstore at Teesside Park. Her daughter Jennifer, 11, is autistic and the company allowed her to cut her shifts from 40 hours a week to 16.5.

Dawn says: "Thomson have been very accommodating. The shop I work in has extended opening hours so this makes flexible working even easier. I work a variety of morning and afternoon stints throughout the week to fit around Jennifer.

"My job is fantastic and I love helping people choose their holidays. Plus we all get a great discount on our family holidays too!" (thomson.co.uk/jobs/travel-jobs.htm)

Tracey Williams, 29, from Bury, Greater Manchester, is a customer service team leader for O2. The mum-of-three has

Work is my social life and my job." (o2careers.co.uk)

Sandra Hill, 39, from Garforth in Leeds works 30 hours a week at a Sainsbury's store. The mum-of-two is a team leader on the meat, fish and deli counters.

She says: "Retail is a great place to work if you are a lone parent. Management at my store are always happy for me to alter

my hours and the con

flexible approach. "This is a real help when I have to pick

from school. My job is c on a typical Saturday v around a thousand custo

"I work with my tea counters up and to ma look fantastic – custome ment on how nice they gives me a sense of real



PRIDE... Sandra



SHIFTS... Dawn