

Child Care—A Vital Investment

By [Denise Schipani](#) Sent: Monday January 23, 2012



In the seven years that **my sons were in childcare**—a period that began when my oldest was three months old and ended when my youngest hit kindergarten—I shelled out upwards of **\$80,000**.

It was **worth** every penny.

Handing over that last check, I felt as if there should be champagne, or at least balloons falling from the ceiling. Because child care will remain one of the **best investments** I ever made.

Moms who **work from home** and use child care often get judged: *Can't she work around the baby's schedule? Isn't she throwing her money away? Is it a teeny bit selfish?!*

For me, child care was never an **indulgence** but an investment in my business, no different from a **decent computer** and reliable broadband.

And it also made me a **more relaxed mother**. For his first five months, my youngest son was home with me as I launched my freelance career. I had to work—that wasn't an option. But did I have to work with my baby in a swing, ticking like a **metronome** behind me?

That \$80,000 sounds steep, but I wonder: How much **less money** might I have earned if I hadn't invested it? It's worth pondering...over a glass of champagne.

Denise Schipani blogs at [Confessions of a Mean Mommy](#). Her new book, [Mean Moms Rule](#):

[Why Doing the Hard Stuff Now Creates Good Kids Later](#) (*Sourcebooks, 2012*) is available for pre-order now.