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THE IMPORTANCE OF A MOTHERLY FIGURE IN CATHY GLASS'S *SAVING DANNY*

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Abstract: This paper explores the significance of a motherly figure in the lives of children. One of the main themes in Cathy Glass's book *Saving Danny* is parenthood and the importance of motherly figures. This research also indicates that a mother's role is dynamic throughout life but doesn't diminish as a child grows into an adult. Mother is the first human every child sees. A child knows their mother since the moment of conception. The umbilical cord serves as the baby's physical, emotional, and mental link to its mother. When the baby is delivered, the mother feeds it and tucks it into bed. A child's existence is shaped and molded by a mother's love from the very beginning, an incomparable force. It is a feeling that is beyond language, a deep bond that serves as the cornerstone of a child's emotional and mental health. Mothers usually encourage their kids to lead contented lives and make the most positive contributions to society. Their goal in raising their kids is to improve the world. By imparting knowledge on wisdom, truth, serenity, joy, and a spiritual harvest, she shapes children's personalities. Mothers Serve as Foundations and Pillars. Mothers provide you strength and motivation when you're feeling depleted emotionally. She is a rock on whom you may rely to get over any issues, bad emotions, or fears.

Keywords: *Nurturing, Emotional support, Guidance, Security, Development, Bonding.*

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Introduction

A child feels an immense amount of comfort and reassurance when their mother is present. A mother's present is the most consoling thing a child can have. A child's mother is the primary attachment figure from the outset of their lives. A child's relationship with their parents determines how they develop physically and emotionally. Children suffer in terms of emotional development and behavior when parents are not present or do not spend quality time with them. Among the unpleasant emotions a youngster may feel are worthlessness, depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and even hostility. The lack of parents might also lead to issues with social connections because of worries about trust. A mother gives a child security. A mother's ability to provide stability to her kid exemplifies the importance of mothers in the lives of their offspring. A child who fears the dark will run to their mother instead of their father. The youngster believes their mother will shield from all of life's "awful things." A mother's source of unconditional love never runs out. Even if her most valuable item is destroyed by a child, she will still be happy since her kid is safe. When a child is distressed, nasty things are frequently spoken and done, but mothers frequently overlook and forgive. Even when a mother's child grows up and becomes an adult and may make decisions that she disagrees with, she will always adore her child and support them when they need it. A mother's love for her kid is unconditional and never wavers. There are several challenges in raising a child; from the dependent newborn who need constant care to the teenager, a mother's role is paramount. Mothers might feel wounded or angry too.

Emotional Support and Nurturing

A mother's love and nurturing have a profound impact on her kid. Youngsters who grow up in a caring and loving family seem more likely to develop positive relationships, do well in school, and overcome obstacles in life more easily. A child's mental and emotional stability are established by the emotional security that a mother's love provides, paving the way for a happy and well-rounded existence. Mothers provide selfless love, caring, and support. Everyone mother's love and care regardless of how old the person is. The love of a mother is frequently typified by sacrifice and selflessness. She voluntarily sacrifices her precious time, energy, and personal preferences in order to meet her child's needs before her own. A mother's love knows no limits; it could be spending the entire night tending to a sick child or postponing her aspirations in order to prioritize her family. Her unwavering love instills in her students the importance of compassion, empathy, and placing others before oneself. According to Bowlby, caring for an infant or toddler is an around-the-clock responsibility that can often be stressful (Bowlby 1).

Role in Child Development

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The majority of women are excellent mothers to their kids . Moms watch out for their kids' safety and happiness during their formative years. A mother's feelings are motivated by her unconditional love for her children. Keeping in mind that mothers frequently shoulder the blame for the adolescent drama and the toddler meltdowns.

In spite of this, mothers often have an unwavering affection for their children. Numerous scientific researchers have demonstrated the beneficial effects of maternal love on the development of social, emotional, and cognitive skills. Emotional intelligence, empathy, and social competence are frequently found to be higher in children who get their moms' constant, loving care. A mother's primary responsibility is to recognize her child's needs, provide for them, and be there for them whenever they need her. The emotional pillars of the family are their mothers. They try their best to prevent us from becoming injured and offer a safe haven for everyone's emotions. When we are little, we constantly take our mother for granted, but without her, life has no purpose. As Glass States, “No one gets Parenting right all the time”(Glass 303).

Cathy Glass Providing a Sense of Safety for Danny

In Cathy Glass's "Saving Danny," the importance of a motherly figure is central to the story. Cathy, a foster carer, becomes a motherly figure to Danny, a young boy with autism who has faced significant challenges and trauma in his life. Cathy provides a sense of safety for Danny in several key ways like creating a stable environment. Cathy establishes a predictable daily routine, which helps Danny feel more secure. Regular mealtimes, bedtimes, and activities create a sense of normalcy and reliability. She ensures that Danny's living space is calm, organized, and free from potential stressors. She offers an Emotional Reassurance like Unconditional Support and Positive Reinforcement.

Cathy consistently shows Danny that she is there for him, no matter what. Her unwavering support helps him trust that he is cared for and protected. She uses positive reinforcement to encourage Danny's efforts and achievements, building his confidence and sense of security. Cathy was very Understanding and Patient, Responds Calmly and Listening and Empathizing Danny. Cathy remains patient and calm, especially during Danny's difficult moments. Her composed demeanour helps prevent situations from escalating and reassures Danny that he is in a safe place. By listening to Danny and validating his feelings, Cathy shows him that his emotions and experiences are important. This empathy helps Danny feel understood and safe. Cathy actively protects Danny from potential harm, whether it's from external threats or harmful situations. She ensures he receives the proper care and resources needed for his well-being. Cathy helps Danny work through his past traumas by providing a safe space for him to express his feelings and fears. Her support in dealing with these issues is crucial for his healing. Cathy's constant and reliable presence in Danny's life helps build a strong foundation of trust. Knowing she will always be there provides him with a sense of security. Encouraging Danny to communicate openly and honestly helps him feels safe to share his thoughts and concerns without fear of judgment or rejection.

Moral and Ethical Guidance

A mother's love not only provides emotional and psychological advantages, but it is also essential in forming a child's moral and ethical compass. A child gains a strong moral foundation that directs their activities throughout life, as well as an understanding of what is right and wrong, empathy towards others, and other virtues through the principles and values established by a loving mother. When faced with difficulties, a mother's love is put to the test, and it is in these situations that it truly shines.

When a child is ill, having trouble in school, or acting out, a mother's constant love and support can help to stabilize the situation. A mother's love instills resilience in her children, which serves as a lifelong asset that gives them the bravery and determination to confront life's obstacles head-on. According to Glass, “Obviously children have to learn socially acceptable behavior, but there is a huge spectrum of conduct that could be described as unusual, eccentric or just odd”(Glass 73).

There is no other attachment like that among a mother and her child.When a child is in distress, a mother can sense their needs before they are spoken and can offer consolation and assurance. A child's emotional wellbeing is shaped by the belief and security that this connection provides. There is no other attachment like that among a mother and her child. Mothers support you in overcoming obstacles or anxieties in life. She will be a constant source of strength and influence for you. Give Everything Up for Her Kids. Every mother in the world will adore her children above all others.She is a friend, a mother, and a hero. Your mother gives you strength. Behind all of the prosperous tales, the mother will always be present. She will encourage you if you are heading to an office, college, or school. Regardless of how they treat her in return, a mother is the only one who wants to keep their children happy. She Educates Us on Carrying on Our Legacy.

Foster Care Mother’s Role in Child Development

A foster care mother plays a vital role in child development through several key aspects. According to Vanderfaeillie et al., “Foster parents are expected to reverse child problems through quality parenting and to maintain or even improve the foster child’s relationships with his/her family of origin” (Vanderfaeillie 1515**)**

Foster mothers provide a nurturing and stable environment that helps children feel safe and secure. This emotional support is crucial for the child's overall well-being and development of trust. They ensure that the child's basic needs for food, shelter, clothing, and healthcare are met. Meeting these needs creates a foundation of stability that allows the child to focus on learning and growing. Foster mothers support educational development by encouraging learning, helping with homework, and providing opportunities for intellectual stimulation. They may also advocate for the child's educational needs within the foster care system. They teach appropriate behavior, model healthy communication, and provide guidance on resolving conflicts. They respect and support the child's cultural background and identity, helping them maintain connections to their heritage and traditions.

Foster mothers advocate for the child's rights and needs within the foster care system and community. They empower children by listening to their concerns, advocating for their best interests, and helping them access necessary resources and services. Through nurturing relationships and consistent care, foster mothers help children develop emotional intelligence and resilience. As Monroe states “Consistency is key to helping children feel safe and secure” (Monroe 124) .They support the child through challenges and provide a sense of stability during times of change. Overall, foster care mothers play a pivotal role in fostering positive development and growth in children placed in

their care. Their nurturing, guidance, and advocacy contribute significantly to the child's well-being and future success.

Cathy's Influence on Danny's Emotional Intelligence

Mothers are the world's first teacher, they help us develop our self-belief and teach us appropriate behavior, language, and critical thinking skills. A mother's role as a teacher is to enhance all aspects of a child's development—physical, emotional, mental, communication, critical thinking, and independence. A mother has numerous responsibilities, including nurturing, caring for her child, teaching language and about the outside world, helping her child think more clearly, and much more. Cathy's support plays a crucial role in developing Danny's emotional intelligence in "Saving Danny."

One can never overestimate a mother's love. It serves as the foundation for a child's psychological and emotional growth. Empirical studies repeatedly demonstrate the significant influence that maternal attachment has on a child's general welfare. A strong emotional foundation is provided by a stable bond to a caring mother, which boosts a child's resilience, self-worth, and confidence. Moreover, a child's self-esteem is impacted by a mother's love throughout their entire life. People who had their moms' unwavering affection and acceptance as children typically have a high sense of self-worth. This confidence serves as a compass, enabling them to confidently follow their objectives and desires. Those who were lucky enough to experience their mother's love as adults possess a reserve of emotional fortitude. This resilience turns into an effective tool for overcoming obstacles in life, such as unexpected crises, personal losses, or career failures. According to Brenda Jones Harden, "Providing stable and nurturing families can bolster the resilience of children in care and ameliorate negative impacts on their developmental outcomes" (Jones Harden 31).

A mother's love creates an emotional foundation that is a dependable source of strength when faced with hardship. The love of a mother is a lifelong source of encouragement for children. A mother is there to support, uplift, and rejoice over every milestone, from the first steps to the greatest accomplishments. She turns into the beacon of light, providing direction and insight despite obstacles. A child can overcome challenges and realize their full potential because of the resilience and confidence that a mother's love bestows in them. As Glass highlights "I've found through fostering that it's usually impossible to correct or modify all aspects of a child's behaviour at once, so I concentrate on what I think is most important" (Glass 280).

Cathy helps Danny learn the names of different emotions, which is the first step in understanding them. By labeling feelings such as happiness, sadness, anger, and fear, she helps Danny become more aware of his own emotional state. She might use visual aids, like emotion charts or flashcards, to make it easier for Danny to identify and express his feelings. Cathy models appropriate ways to express emotions by showing Danny how to talk about feelings calmly and constructively. She creates a safe space for Danny to share his emotions without fear of judgment, encouraging him to talk about what he is feeling. Cathy teaches Danny various coping strategies to manage intense emotions, such as deep breathing, counting to ten, or engaging in a calming activity. During emotional outbursts or stressful times, Cathy offers comfort and reassurance, helping Danny learn to self-soothe. Cathy helps Danny understand and recognize the emotions of others by discussing how different situations might make people feel. Using social stories, Cathy explains various social scenarios and the emotions involved, helping Danny to better understand and predict others' emotional responses.

Cathy teaches Danny how to resolve conflicts peacefully by discussing the problem, understanding each other's feelings, and finding a mutually acceptable solution. She encourages Danny to reflect on his actions and their impact on others, fostering a deeper understanding of cause and effect in social interactions. Cathy regularly praises Danny for his efforts in managing his emotions and interacting positively with others, boosting his confidence and self-esteem. By setting and celebrating small, achievable goals related to emotional regulation and social interaction, Cathy helps Danny feel successful and capable. Cathy provides a supportive environment where Danny feels safe to explore and express his emotions, which is essential for emotional growth. Her consistent presence and support help Danny feel secure and understood, fostering his emotional development.

Conclusion

Cathy's dedicated support plays a transformative role in developing Danny's emotional intelligence. Through teaching emotion vocabulary, modeling healthy expression, and providing coping strategies, Cathy helps Danny navigate his emotions with greater understanding and control. Her efforts to foster empathy, guide conflict resolution, and build self-esteem enable Danny to interact more positively with others. By creating a safe and nurturing environment, Cathy ensures that Danny feels secure and supported, paving the way for his emotional growth. Ultimately, Cathy's unwavering commitment and compassionate care significantly enhance Danny's ability to understand and manage his emotions, leading to a more fulfilling and connected.

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