



by Tami Taylor

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INSPIRATION 1: MOTHER ON FASHION

When you were growing up, were you a fashion trendsetter? A rebel who refused to let commercials and trends dictate your personal style? Maybe you flat out just didn't care what was in and what was out. Regardless of which of these categories you fell into, I would place a decent wager that your mother still let you know her opinion on your personal fashion style.



Let's apply some of these opinions to your scrapbooking style.

FASHION MOM-ISM #1

Mother says: "Are you going out dressed like that?"

Translation: Go change.



the *dutiful daughter*
will go change.

Be a dutiful daughter, go subtle. Let's try a simple monochromatic layout.

"Going Green" by Doris Sander



the *wild child*
will show mother what change really means.

Go wild. Grab a piece of your wildest paper, a paper you wouldn't imagine using as a background, and use it.

"SAHM" by Tami Taylor.



FASHION MOM-ISM #2

Mother says: "Never wear white after Labor Day."

Translation: I'm tired of bleaching.

the *dutiful daughter*
will embrace color.

Try making a layout without any white on it. Create your own "white space" without one drop of white.

the *wild child*
dons every article of white she owns.

Can you make a layout that is predominately white? Can you make one that is all white?

"Hayseeds" by Debbie Hodge



FASHION MOM-ISM #3

Mother says: "I don't care if everyone else gets to do it."

Translation: You aren't wearing make-up, your friends look like raccoons.



the *wild child*

will grab a sharpie marker for eyeliner if it's all she has.

Put your marker to good use. Doodle, yes that's right, doodle and make it a focal point of the page not just a small detail.

"My Wish" by Michelle Houghton

the *dutiful daughter*

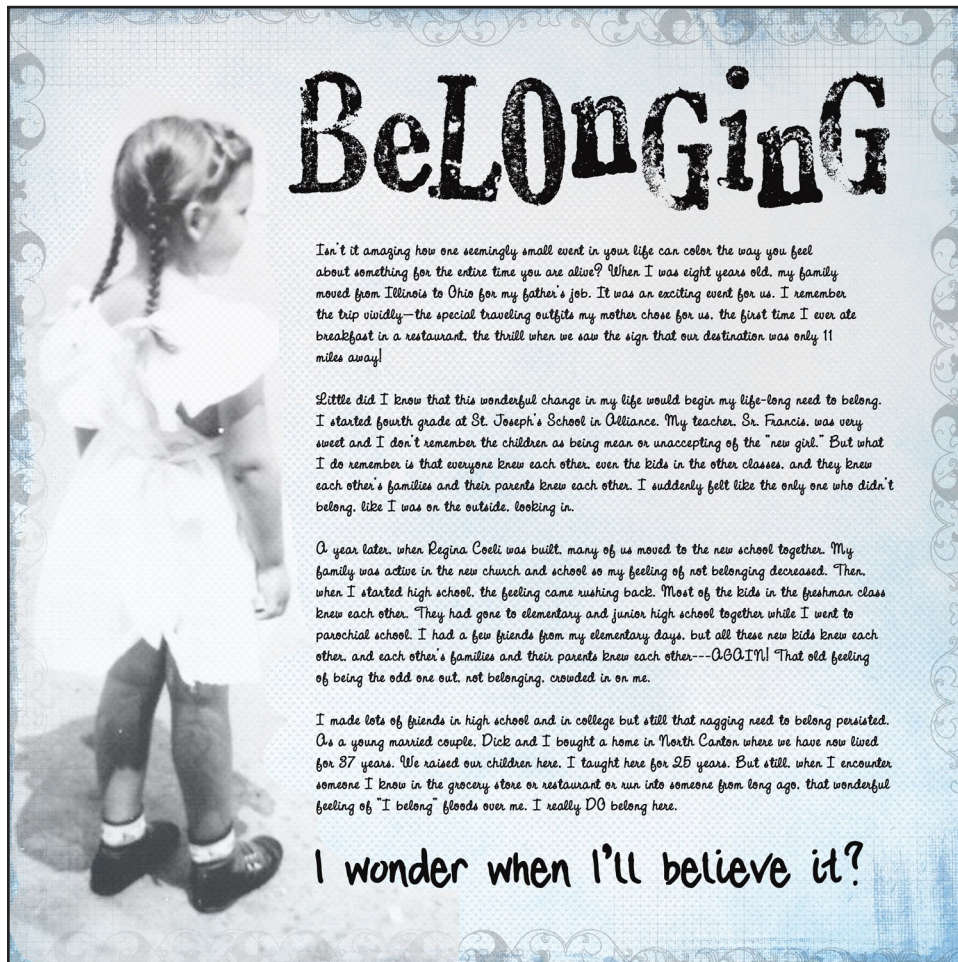
will wait until she has permission to wear makeup.

Until it's time, practice your eyeliner application. Grab a favorite pen or marker and make a few marks on your page. Focus on little things like accent a photo corner, customize the letters of your title with dots, dashes or lines.

FASHION MOM-ISM #4

Mother says: "Get your hair out of your face."

Translation: You are beautiful, let people see it.



the *dutiful*
daughter

will go pull her hair back
and show the world her
face.

Go pull your hair back
and take a photo of
yourself. Show the
world how beautiful you
are. Share the things
you like about yourself.

the *wild child*

will go shave her head.

Not to worry, this isn't
a crazy reality show, no
head shaving (unless you
want). Instead, show
the world the good and
bad. What insecurities did
you have about yourself
growing up? Are you over
them now?

"Belonging" by Lynn
Weber



INSPIRATION 2: MOTHER ON PEER PRESSURE

Children learn at an early age the battle of peer pressure. Though it never truly goes away, adults find it slightly easier to ignore the struggle of social acceptance for staying true to one's self. This happens with a lot of guidance from our mothers.

Here are a few of those guiding comments mother gave.



PEER PRESSURE MOM-ISM #1

Mother says: I don't care who started it, you stop it.

Translation: Stop. (Seriously, some of these are that easy to translate)



the *dutiful daughter*
will stop straightaway.

Scrapbooking, just as any other facet of life has trends. From the deco scissors to mushrooms to owls, with each season comes the new "in" thing to have on pages. What about making your own embellishments to personalize your page more? What are you into? What do you collect? Can you make your own embellishment to reflect you?

the *wild child*

likes sticking with the mainstream.

What trend are you gaga over? Have you gotten your hand on some new product you are dying to use? Then use it! Show off your skills with the latest and greatest product or technique.

Can you tell that Doris Sander is gaga over stitching in "Symphony?"



PEER PRESSURE MOM-ISM #2

Mother says: If everyone else jumps off a cliff, are you going to follow?

Translation: Are you capable of thinking for yourself?

the *dutiful*
daughter
will think for herself.

What do you want? Without all the hype or fancy ads, without worry of being politically correct or what is expected from you, what is on your wish list right now? Share your desires, do you want something simple like a new book or expensive like a custom built laptop. Perhaps your wish list is a little more on the extreme side and you'd like a shiny new sports car to drive to crops. Whatever it is, share it.

the *wild child*
jumps off the cliff with her friends. *Viper!*



Dutiful daughter Tami Blanchard is after a Dodge

Viper!

We often joke on message boards of "enablers" those pesky posters who share links to new products, discount codes and sales. How often we follow those links to purchase product we probably don't need and sometimes after the purchase realize we get a little buyers' remorse. Have you fallen for media hype? Do you have a story of a purchase that you "had to have" only later to realize it didn't live up to the expectation?

PEER PRESSURE MOM-ISM #3

Mother says: There is one, and only one, you.

Translation: I love you. (Or she thinks whatever antic you just did is ridiculous and doesn't think anyone else in the world would have thought to do that.)



the *dutiful*
daughter
will celebrate her uniqueness.

Go get your camera and take pictures of your possessions that are your favorites. These are the things that make you, "you". Simple photos that will share your tastes and



likes down the road. What are your favorite shoes? Where's your favorite place in your home? What are your favorite beauty products?

Michelle Houghton does this in "My Friend."

the *wild child*
most likely heard the latter translation.

Did you pull some crazy antics in your youth? What was the craziest thing you did growing up? What did you learn from it? Were you the rational one? If so, who was the crazy one in your family? What ridiculous things did they do?

PEER PRESSURE MOM-ISM #4

Mother says: With friends like that, who needs enemies?"

Translation: Your friends are mean.



the *dutiful daughter* will evaluate her friendships.



Who is your oldest and dearest friend? Why are they such a good friend? What has kept you friends through the years? Dedicate a page to them and document the influence they've had in your life.

"This Girl" by Debbie Hodge

the *wild child* knows her friends are the best, regardless of what they do.

What friend advice would you tell your younger self or any young ones in your life? What makes a friend a friend?



INSPIRATION 3: MOTHER ON TIME MANAGEMENT

Mother juggled all her roles so efficiently, kids, home, work, a husband, chef, nurse, mentor, the list is endless. All of these things without many of the conveniences we have today. How did mother do it?

Thankfully she passed on some useful knowledge to control the chaos.



TIME MANAGEMENT MOM-ISM #1

Mother says: What part of 'no' don't you understand?

Translation: Stop asking, you've annoyed her to the point she'll never change her mind.



the *dutiful daughter*
will stop asking, and let it go.

Can you let things go? What things have you had to let go of, and for what reasons? Share your story.



the *wild child*
never takes no for an answer.

Do you have a story about someone who refused to take no for an answer?

"Consequences" by Debbie Hodge takes a look at feelings around being pushed by someone who wouldn't take "no" for an answer.

TIME MANAGEMENT MOM-ISM #2

Mother says: I'm going to give you until the count of three!.

Translation: I wouldn't wait for two.



the *dutiful daughter*

will be gone before one. Can you move it? How about a little timed challenge? Try doing a layout from start to finish in 30 minutes. Start timing yourself after you picked your photo; 30 minutes later snap a photo to share in the gallery. If you aren't finished, share another photo of the completed project and let us know how long it actually took.

Tami Taylor knows how to move it in "K."

the *wild child*

moves like molasses. Take your time on a layout. Experiment with some time consuming techniques like embossing, stamping, water coloring, paints, paper piecing, anything that will slow you down. Enjoy the process as much as the end results. Is the extra time worth it? Not counting breaks, who has the most time consuming layout?



TIME MANAGEMENT MOM-ISM #3

Mother says: I said 'NOW!'

Translation: It should have been done ten minutes ago.



the *wild child*

doesn't live in the 'now'.

Life isn't meant to be rushed. Our elders didn't live life in the fast lane 24/7. Did they? Maybe they did, do you know? You should ask an older loved one what their life was like as a child, a teen, a 'thirtysomething.' Was it full of play dates and schedules? Did they often complain of being bored? How different is your life now compared to theirs?

Debbie Hodge records the way her grandmother approached things in this layout.

the *dutiful daughter*
will do it now.

Capture the moment now. Get up, grab your camera and take some photos. Photograph yourself and what you are doing and wearing. What is everyone else doing? Get photos of others and be in the picture with them, today.



TIME MANAGEMENT MOM-ISM #4

Mother says: You need to get your priorities in order.

Translation: What you think is important is ridiculous.



the *dutiful daughter*
will figure out what they are.

Grab a pen and paper and make a list of your priorities. Your list can be a simple to-do list for this week or a layout expressing all the roles in your life.

Debbie Hodge's to-do list is scrapped in "Today."



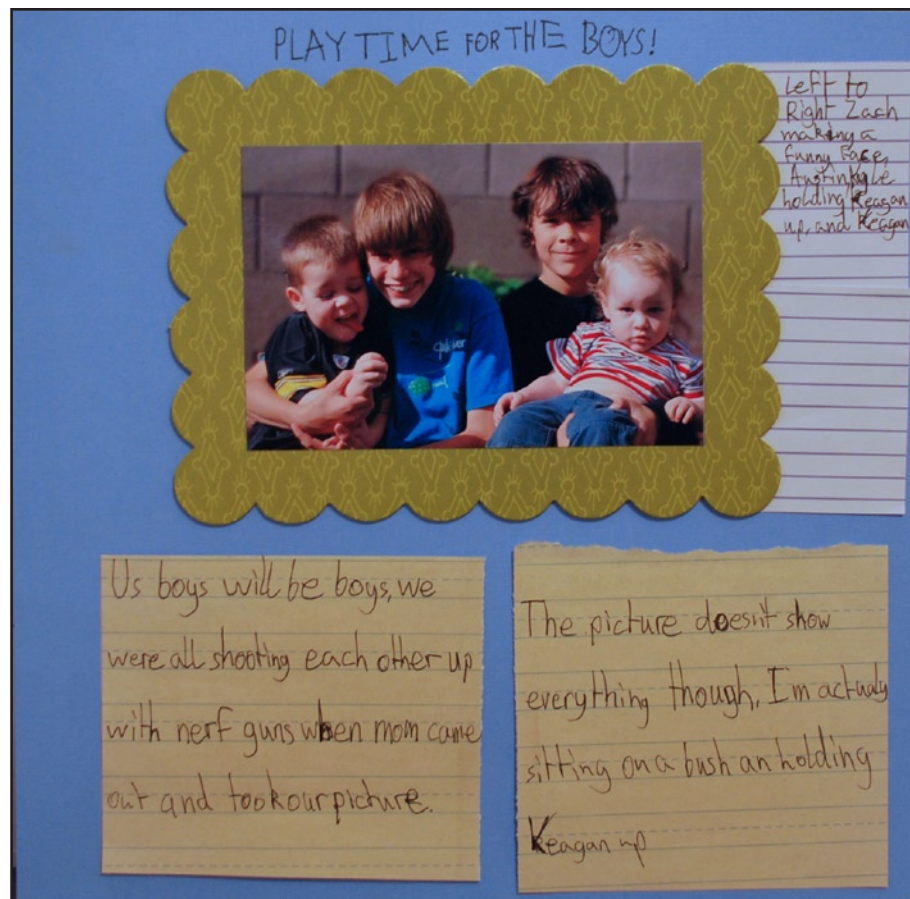
the *wild child*
has her own set of priorities.

Let's prioritize our life goals. What five fun things do you want to accomplish before you turn 100? Own a cherry red mustang? Be an extra on the set of your favorite television show? Travel to Wisconsin and milk a cow? Do a layout that lists at least five.



INSPIRATION 4: MOTHER ON HOUSEKEEPING

Is this the hottest button between Mother & child? Maybe there are a few lucky ones who have mothers that define clean the same way they do, if you aren't a lucky one you have probably heard some of these comments.



HOUSEKEEPING MOM-ISM #1

Mother says: You can clean your room, or I can clean it for you...

Translation: Please, please let me clean it.



the *dutiful daughter*

will go clean her room.

After you clean up your scrappy space, take some photos. What is your favorite part of your scrap area... it doesn't have to be a full room even if it's a bag and you scrap at your dining room table, share what's great about it. What is scrapping time like for you? Do you snack? Do you watch TV? Show the view from your seat.



the *wild child*

has better things to do, let mother do it.

Can you let go enough to let someone else do for you? What about a layout? Can you let one of your kids do a layout about their events or you? What about your dear husband? Do you have a scrappy friend that will do a layout for you? If you are like me and don't have scrappy friends nearby, try partnering up with an online friend. Email them photos and have them create a layout for you. Share a layout that you let someone else do for you.

Tami Taylor had her son Kyle do a layout for his own album. See how his perspective differs from his mom's. She chose to look at the big picture of the boys together and how she sees their relationship as a whole. Kyle (see layout on previous page) chose to share how fun that day was playing army with nerf guns in the backyard.

HOUSEKEEPING MOM-ISM #2

Mother says: I didn't ask you who did it, I said pick it up!

Translation: I'm tired of figuring out whose fault it is, no one fesses up to it anyway.



the *dutiful daughter*
will will stop explaining and pick it up.
Can you pick up your pages? Use textures and 3 dimensional adhesives pick your page up. How lumpy can you get?

the *wild child*
leaves it laying there, she didn't do it.
Can you make a "flat" page pop?
What techniques can you use to give a page with all flat embellishments look 3 dimensional?

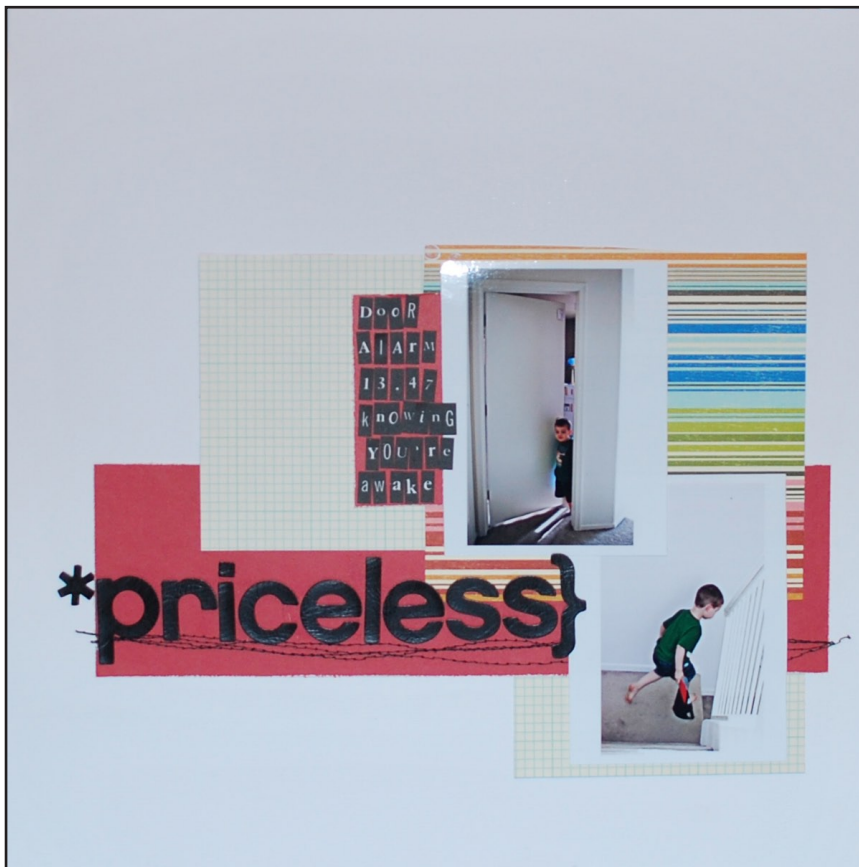
Debbie Hodge used several "junk drawer" & flea market finds on "Lunch Date."



HOUSEKEEPING MOM-ISM #3

Mother says: Shut the door before the flies get in!

Translation: Just get outside.



the *dutiful*
daughter
will get outside.

Go outside, take your camera. Share what your home entry way looks like. Photos of doors can be so moving. They can be welcoming and warm or cold and foreboding. Do you decorate your doors for the season?

the *wild child*
stays inside.

What do the doors in your home look like? What stories would they tell? What is the view when you walk by and the door is cracked open just a little?

Tami Taylor scraps a doorway in "Priceless."

HOUSEKEEPING MOM-ISM #4

Mother says: You call that clean?

Translation: You aren't finished and I'm beginning to wonder if you need glasses.



the *dutiful daughter*

will go back until it's crystal clear.

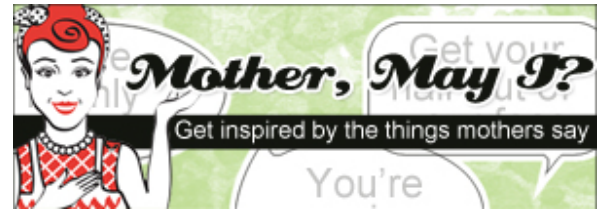
Show your own crystal clear trinkets on your pages. Use transparencies, acrylic embellishments, crystals or any other clear items on your pages.

Doris Sander uses clear embellishments on "Cold."

the *wild child*

could not care less how dirty it is.

Get it dirty, just because you by the items clear doesn't mean they need to stay that way. Dirty up your clear items with paint, ink, or pens. Try just roughing it up with a nail file or sander to give it a different look all together.

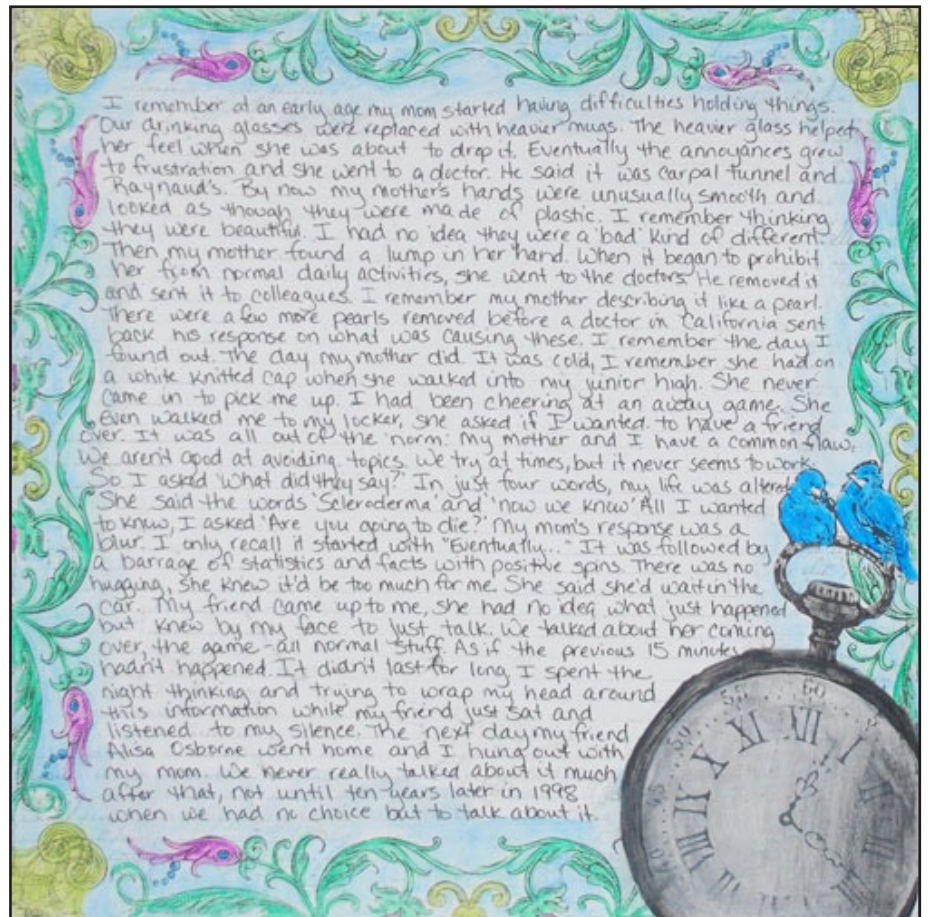


INSPIRATION 5: MOTHER ON COMMUNICATION

We first learn to communicate in our home. Learning to communicate well is essential to social survival in the outside world. We are lucky to have our mothers to guide us and educate us on this fundamental tool.

These lessons were our building blocks.

This journaling-heavy page is by Tami Taylor.



COMMUNICATION MOM-ISM #1

Mother says: Because I said so, that's why.

Translation: She doesn't know but do it anyway.



the *dutiful daughter*

will do as she's told.

Follow protocol, layouts have rules about visual triangles, grids, color portions, balance, etc. Incorporate one or more of these rules into a layout.

Follow the green spots on Debbie Hodge's "Thanks" to see the visual triangle.

the *wild child*

will really show her mother she can listen.

How literal can you be with these rules? Can you do a layout that is a triangle? What about a grid design?

See Debbie Hodge's grid design on page 33.



COMMUNICATION MOM-ISM #2

Mother says: Am I talking to a brick wall?

Translation: She knows you aren't listening and are actually thinking of what to wear to school tomorrow.



the *dutiful*
daughter

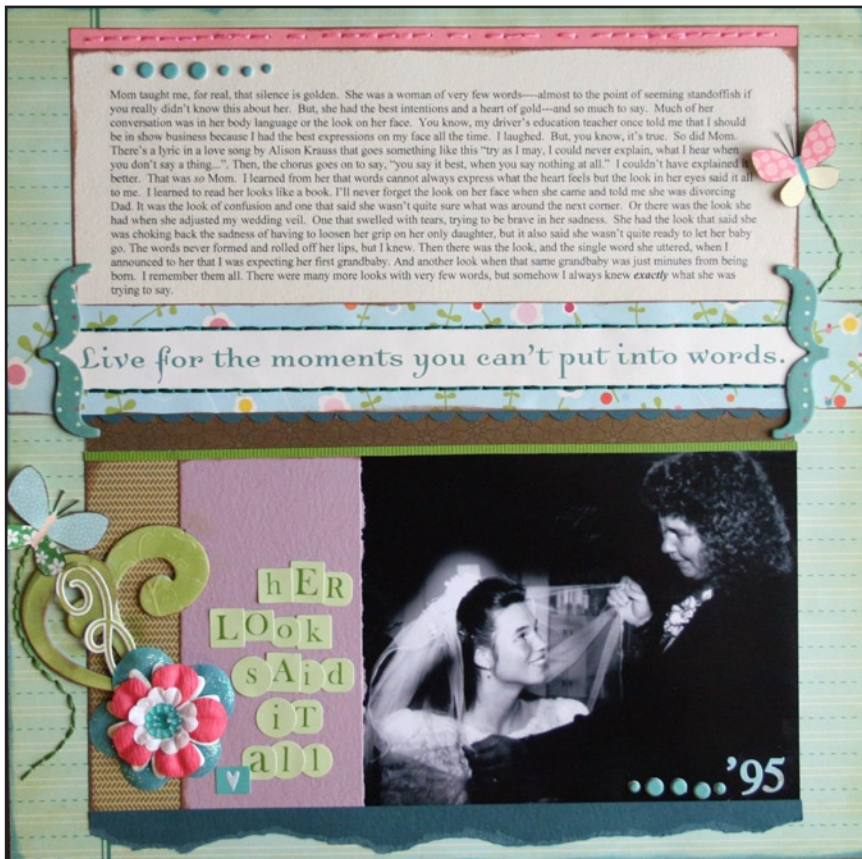
will listen to her mother. Did you listen to your mother growing up? Do you remember things she said that have just stuck with you for one reason or another? Whether it's a silly story she once told or a witty comment she said that caught you off guard, share it. Make sure it's not lost.

the *wild child*

listens to her mother; she just doesn't want her mother to know it.

Let's face it, the wild child may act like they don't care, but mother's words do get through. Do a layout sharing what your mother taught you, whether it was through her words or actions?

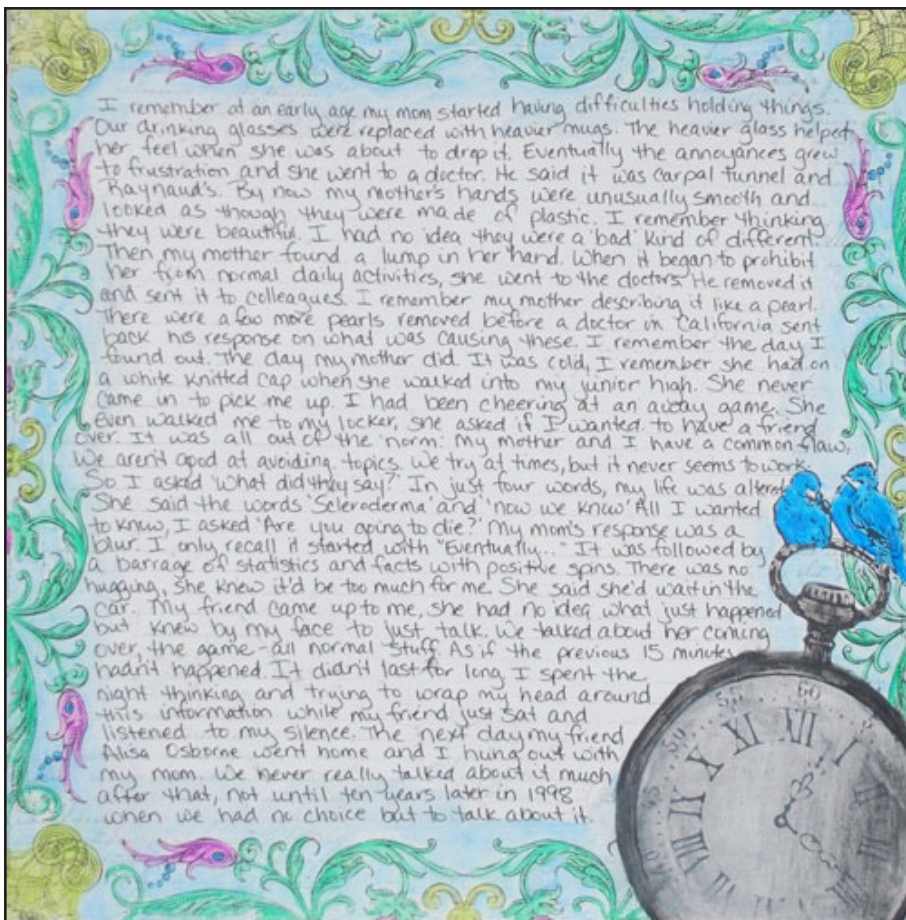
Tania Willis shares what her mother taught her in "Her Look Said It All."



COMMUNICATION MOM-ISM #3

Mother says: Who do you think you are talking to?

Translation: You better stop talking. She is getting the not-so-subtle tone of your voice, the tone that says you think you are smarter than her.



the *dutiful daughter*
will talk until she's blue in the face.
Try to fill your page with journaling. Make it the main focus.

Tami Taylor definitely knows how to talk on her layout shown here.

the *wild child*
will stop talking.
Can you stop talking? Try doing a layout without any words, not even for the title. Can you think of alternative ways to do a title?

COMMUNICATION MOM-ISM #4

Mother says: If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all

Translation: Stop being such a meanie.

the dutiful daughter

will find something nice to say.

How often do we hear the nice things about us? What about the people we care about, I bet they don't hear it as much as they should. Do a layout that shows how much you care about them.

the wild child

will be brutally honest.

Honesty, however, doesn't need to be brutal. Can you do a page that shows the 'flaws' of someone or something without being brutal about it? Can you make the negative positive?

Debbie Hodge shares hard truths in "Open Invitation" without blaming anyone.





ROUND 6: MOTHER ON FINANCES

For most people money is a limited commodity. When times were tough Mother stepped in and was the responsible one, keeping the family financial boat afloat with a few tips.

These tips can keep you afloat in scrapbooking as well.

This page by Tami Taylor takes the dutiful daughter's approach to recycling described on the next page.



FINANCES MOM-ISM #1

Mother says: Waste not, want not.

Translation: Stop being so wasteful.



the *dutiful daughter*

will recycle all she can. Take a look at all the things you throw away in day. Is there a way you can incorporate some of these things into layouts? Turn your trash into treasure? Try grabbing buttons off old clothes before tossing them; use the cardboard from discarded boxes as texture for layouts. What about wrappers or containers from food or items you opened? Use them in a layout to add modern day ephemera.

the *wild child*

throws caution to the wind and doesn't worry about being 'wasteful'.

Go overboard with your product. Use eight sheets of paper on a layout, an entire jar of flowers to get a huge bouquet on your page. Border the entire page in brads. Use something to the extreme. Conservation is not allowed.



Tania Willis threw caution to the wind in "Counting Eggs."

FINANCES MOM-ISM #2

Mother says: If I had a nickel for every time you....

Translation: She's annoyed with how often you do that.



the *dutiful daughter*
will try to stop doing that.

Are your pages becoming predictable? Look back at the last few pages you have done. Is there a common aspect to them? Is the design the same, are you using the same colors or embellishments? Find the detail that you are repeating and lose it, completely. Break the routine.

Debbie Hodge's layouts almost always have more than one photo, so she stepped out of her comfort zone with "40ish."

the *wild child*
lives to annoy mother.

Find that element you've been reusing and kick it up a notch. Are you using a certain color often? Make it the focus of a page. Are you using metal on every page? Find a new way to use it, perhaps paint it or antique it. Doing a ton of one photo layouts? Enlarge the photo to take up almost the entire page.



FINANCES MOM-ISM #3

Mother says: *Do you think we are made of money?*

Translation: *She thinks the price is ridiculous and you have expensive tastes for someone with no income.*



the *dutiful daughter*

will learn to be thrifter.
Can you be thrifty on a layout?
Can you make a layout that is a "smash" without a lot of cash? Are you able to keep your layout cost under \$5?

Debbie uses staple items like brads, paper flowers, and ribbon to keep her cost low on "A Favorite Memory."

the *wild child*

seriously thinks money grows on trees.

Be extravagant. Find the most expensive items you own and use them. Sitting in your stash isn't doing them justice anyway. What is your layout cost?



FINANCES MOM-ISM #4

Mother says: A penny saved is a penny earned.

Translation: She worries you'll be living with her forever. You'll never be able to move out and support yourself with your spending habits.



the *dutiful daughter*
will will become thrifty.

Become thrifty in your layout. One of the biggest wastes with scrap supplies can be letters. How many sets of letters do you have that only have Q's and Z's left? Let's focus on titles, can you find titles that utilize the least common letters? Try repurposing some of the letters into other areas of a layout. Make a title that uses those unpopular letters. Or even make them into other letters.

Tania Willis uses leftover alphas from multiple sets here.

the *wild child*

shows mom just how thrifty she can be.

Make an entire page without using a single 'new' item. With the exception of the background paper, use only scraps of paper and embellishments that are leftovers from other pages. Do not open any new packages, use up all those remnants you saved.



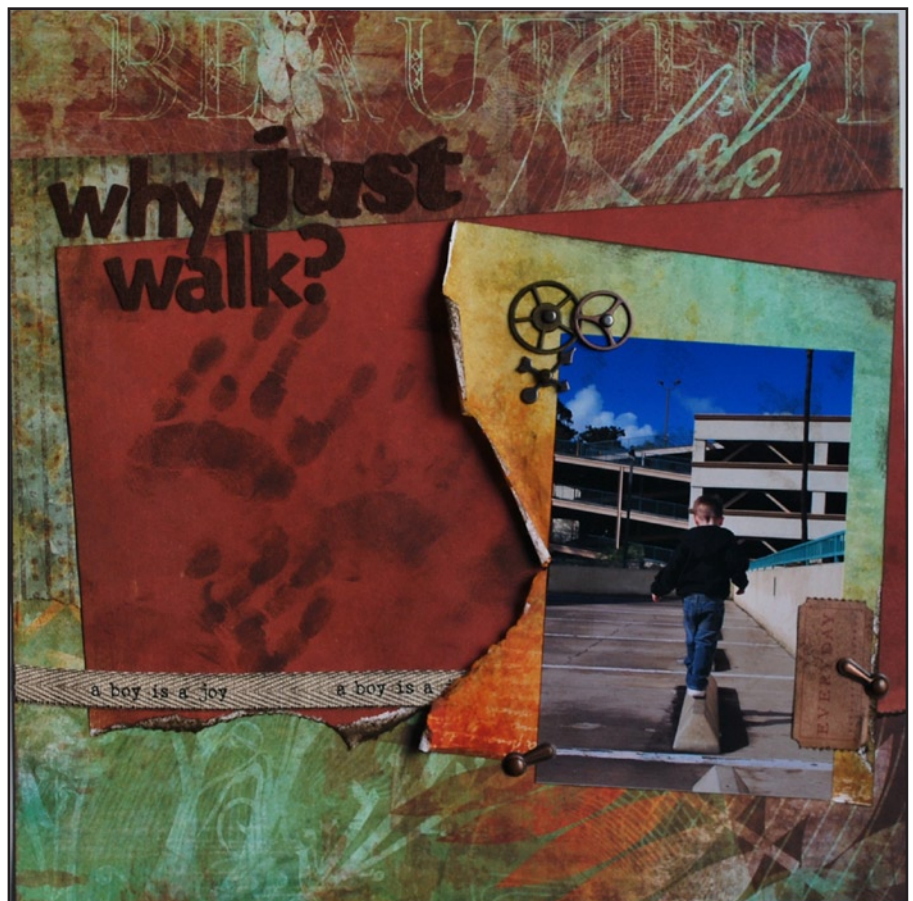


INSPIRATION 7: MOTHER ON REALITY

With all jokes aside, mother's primary role in your life is to keep you grounded. It is a child's nature to float off into an alternative reality where the world is against them or they can graduate from high school and land a six figure income just by watching their favorite television shows or playing their favorite video games.

Mother is that dose of reality that reminds you exactly of what the world is about and your place in it.

When you feel yourself starting to let go of reality, let these passages bring you back.



REALITY MOM-ISM #1

Mother says: It's just rain. You aren't sugar, you won't melt.

Translation: Stop whining about it.



the *dutiful*
daughter

will get wet and learns to appreciate the mess.

Sometimes getting messy is the best part of our art. Get out your inks and do your worst. Use your inks to edge papers, stamp titles, stamp decorative images to embellish your page.

Tami Taylor got messy on "Why Just Walk?" on the previous page.

the *wild child*
believes herself to be sugar.

Since you don't want to melt, let's see how clean of a layout you can make. Think clean straight lines, simple embellishments, try to do a minimalist layout.

"Moving" is a minimalist page by Debbie Hodge.



REALITY MOM-ISM #2

Mother says: Nobody asked you.

Translation: You're still talking?



the dutiful daughter

will stop answering.

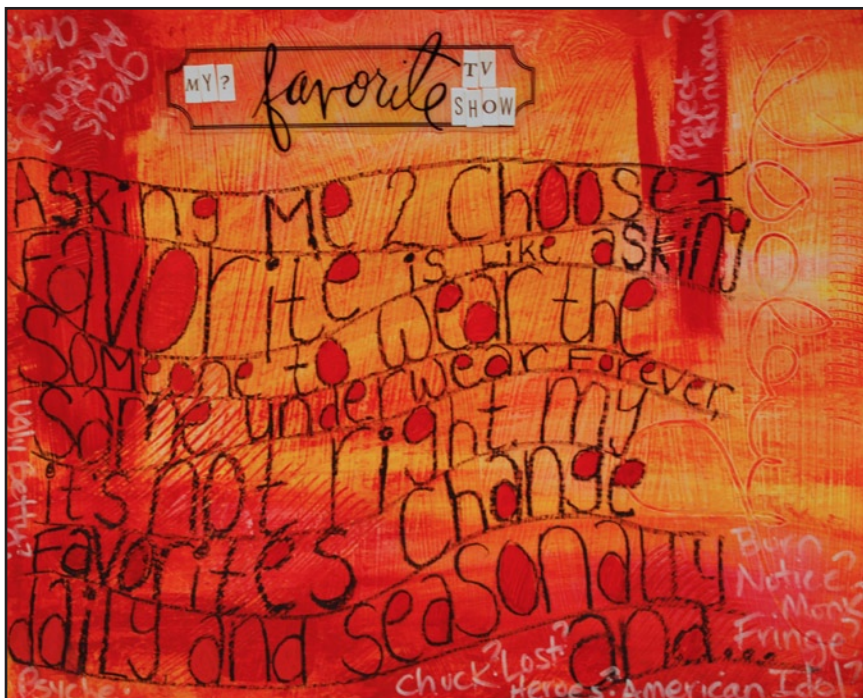
Instead ask the questions, and ask someone who may not get asked as much as they should. Ask a best friend, your spouse or partner; ask them the questions we remember to ask the young ones in our life. Ask them what their favorite color is, their favorite television show, their favorite movie of all time.

the wild child

wants her voice heard.

Ever try to start a conversation by asking a question, and by the time the rest of the group answers you never answered it? Let's answer the same questions we ask others, what are your favorite things?

Tami Taylor took the challenge to art journal on the subject of favorite tv shows.



REALITY MOM-ISM #3

Mother says: When I was your age, I had to walk uphill. . . .

Translation: Things were different when she was a kid blah.. blah... blah....

the dutiful daughter

will spend some time walking uphill to gain appreciation.

Scrapbooking first started as a method of preserving photos, family history and printed media. What printed media have you preserved lately?

Put some printed media in your layout, a program flyer, a newspaper article, a report card.

Debbie Hodge included tickets & programs from a vacation in Las Vegas on "At the Rio."

the wild child

doesn't care about 'ancient history'. Today's scrapbooking for some has evolved into a focus on the art. Layouts have become mini-masterpieces. There are so many famous artists in our industry let's find inspiration in them. Find a layout you enjoy looking at and let it inspire you to create a layout. Make sure to give credit to the artist who created the original art you are using for inspiration.



REALITY MOM-ISM #4

Mother says: If I've said it once, I've said it a thousand times.

Translation: She is tired of repeating herself, listen already.



the *dutiful daughter*
will realize whatever mother is saying
warrants attention.

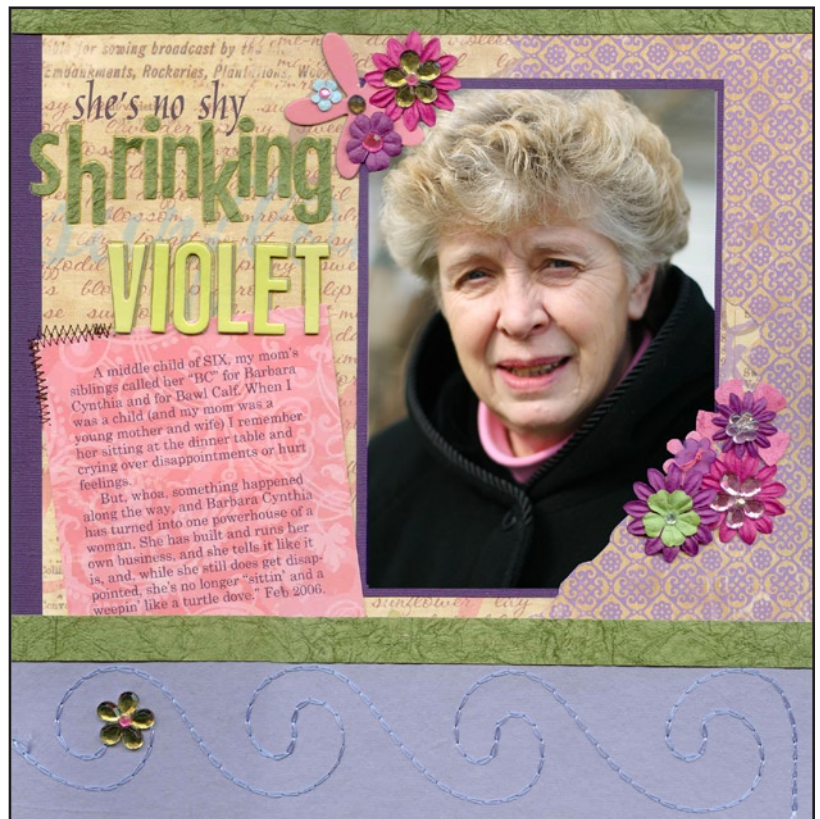
Are you paying attention to your mother? Share a story on a layout that your mother often told. Whether it is a story about you, her life or any other subject; preserve this beloved story.

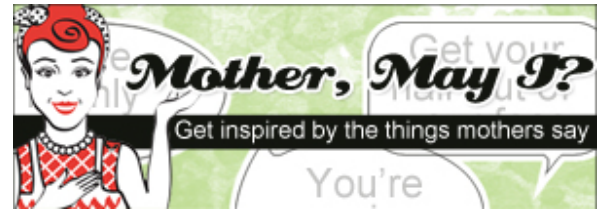
Debbie Hodge scrapbooked her mom's story of being the "bawl calf" as a child and her subsequent transformation to one tough woman in "She's no shy shrinking violet."

the *wild child*

knows mother is exaggerating she couldn't have said it more than once.

Sometimes once is enough. Simply put, what's the one thing you want people to remember about you? Whether it's a profound life philosophy or a simple quirky fact like your tenacity at crosswords, what do you want to be remembered for forever?





ROUND 8: MOTHER ON NUTRITION

Between Mother's advice, the media and our own personal taste; our eating habits were doomed from birth. It is a constant battle to eat right and stay fit. Let's take a look at these glorious blurbs about our eating habits.

See how this page of Tami Taylor's fits the challenge on the fourth page of this section.



NUTRITION MOM-ISM #1

Mother says: You can't start the day on an empty stomach.

Translation: No skipping meals, I don't want someone calling child protective services saying I don't feed you...



the *dutiful daughter*

will go eat a balanced nutritious meal.

Let's provide a little balance to your layout by framing it. Pay attention to the borders and create a visual frame to draw the viewer's eye into your page. This can be something as subtle as cutting decorative corners to something bold like drawing an actual frame around the edge of your background paper.

Check out the frames on Tami Taylor's "Some Day."

the *wild child*

will eat as little as possible to please mom, how else will she fit in those ultra skinny pegged leg jeans?

Try bordering just one side of your page. It doesn't have to be on the edge, allow it to anchor your page wherever you put it.



NUTRITION MOM-ISM #2

Mother says: Eat it, there are starving kids (wherever).

Translation: She didn't waste her time cooking for you to sit and whine about not liking it.



the dutiful daughter

will eat it and pretend it's something else.

What else could that nasty stuff be? What's on your food favorites list? What recipe do you love to cook? Whether it's your favorite take-out or sharing a recipe, document your favorite food(s).

Tami Taylor captured the contrasts in her sons' eating preferences in the cleverly-titled "Jack Sprat."

the wild child

can't do it. It's way too nasty.

What foods do you hate? Do you have a picky eater that refuses most anything?

Are you the pickiest in your house? Is there only one food you can't stand? Share.



NUTRITION MOM-ISM #3

Mother says: Don't cry over spilled milk.

Translation: Stop crying about the mess, I can't scold you when you're already crying.\



the dutiful daughter

will regroup and work on cleaning up the mess. Let's try a time-honored method of cleaning up a mess; the cover-up method. Grab some paint and play with painting on your background; a printed background!

Check out Tami Taylor's painted background in "Happiness."

the wild child

isn't crying from sadness, she's laughing and how funny the mess looks.

Make a bigger mess; use a few different colors of paint on your layouts. How big of a mess can you make?

Dina Wakley uses bold paint colors on the background of "Art Heals."



NUTRITION MOM-ISM #4

Mother says: Don't drink caffeine; it'll stunt your growth."

Translation: She doesn't want to tell you caffeine makes you hyper, you will just want more.

the *dutiful daughter*

will cut out caffeine and grow to great lengths.

When it came time to see how we were growing, mother would pull out her ribbon tape measure and see how tall we got. Get out your ribbon (doesn't have to be a tape measure) and use it on your pages. Use long lengths of ribbon.

Tami Taylor uses ribbon lengths artistically in "Holy Cow" on page 1.

the *wild child*

is not giving up her caffeine, no way.

Grab your ribbon and show short can be fun! Use small lengths of ribbon; this is a great time to use up those pieces you just had to save for a layout "someday".



The loopy orange bow on Debbie Hodge's page softens up the page and adds a spot of orange in a visual triangle.



INSPIRATION 9: MOTHER ON LIFE IN GENERAL

Sometimes Mother just shared her words of wisdom on life in general. In the moment they seemed silly and useless, but given time you will realize how profound these words are.

This page by Tania Willis fits the dutiful daughter challenge on the third page of this section.



LIFE IN GENERAL MOM-ISM #1

Mother says: You'll understand when you're older.

Translation: I don't have a clue how to explain it to you.



the *dutiful*
daughter

will appreciate what she knows now.

What are things you know? What do you know about yourself, your loved ones or the world? Share your wisdom on life and love. Stuck for a place to start? Start with "This much I know is true..."

Debbie Hodge's all-about-me page begins with "These things are true."

the *wild child*

dreams of being older. What do you want to be like when you are older? Will you wear a red hat and purple dress? Will you continue your education? Will you be the spoiling grandmother? How will your older days be?

These things are true

- prefer work to exercise (I never to play)
- the only TV I watch (for the most part) is Guiding Light and anything on MSNBC
- love politics, Alice Munro stories, Merle Haggard songs
- an introvert after 30 years as an extrovert
- prefer yardwork to housework
- worry about bats
- not sentimental but compassionate & tolerant
- got moodier after 37
- like to be prepared for big things, but not so much the little things (i.e., dinner)
- small number of friends
- don't like talking on the phone
- don't hold grudges
- willing to say sorry but not so willing to change my ways
- love writing, blogging, picture-taking, scrapbooking
- let my youngest son fall asleep in my bed at night
- creamy pasta dishes rock
- chocolate is good, too
- ambitious and competent
- love my childhood home and drive the 350 miles there frequently
- worry about Neil's health and yet have confidence he'll be ok because he's so competent (and maybe because I'm hiding my head in the sand)
- like being on the road with the boys
- don't like shopping, in fact go to extremes to avoid it
- don't mind being disliked anymore and willing to face conflicts
- never going to walk out on anyone or anything again
- rarely listen to music these last few years and prefer quiet
- turning into a hermit
- believe in being kind and never "hitting anyone where it hurts"
- enjoy doing math homework alongside my oldest son and then comparing answers
- Sudoku, too!
- not as obsessed with hair as my husband says I am

LIFE IN GENERAL MOM-ISM #2

Mother says: One day you'll have kids and I hope they act just like you.

Translation: I cannot wait to give you the "I told you so" face when you have to discipline them.



the dutiful daughter

will understand how alike kids are.

Aren't most kids alike? There are common behaviors kids share. The growing pains, the "me" stage, the "I'm too embarrassed to be with mom in public" phase, these and many other behaviors that kids go through while growing up. What behaviors do you remember having that were "typical" kid behaviors? Did you share these with your mother or your children?

Tania Willis shows typical kid behavior in "I want."

the wild child

thinks she's unique as all kids are.

What makes you unique? What behaviors do you have that are unlike the typical behaviors of childhood? What about your children?



LIFE IN GENERAL MOM-ISM #3

Mother says: Be careful what you wish for, it might come true.

Translation: You asked for it.



the *dutiful daughter*

will take each wish come true as a blessing. Share a wish you had that came true. How did it impact your life?

Tami Taylor scrapbooks her wish come true in "Finally."

the *wild child*

will scream that's not what she meant!

Have you ever wished for something, and then regretted it? Have you ever wished for something not to happen and it did anyway?

LIFE IN GENERAL MOM-ISM #4

Mother says: "I don't know" is not an answer.

Translation: You better come up with something, quick.



the *wild child*

doesn't have to know, just do it.

Use up some stuff, so what if it doesn't have meaning. Sometimes embellishments don't have purpose, that's why they are embellishments. Grab a bunch of your favorites and go crazy.

Tami Taylor shows that sometimes embellishments are just there for beauty.

the *dutiful daughter*

will know why she is doing something. Why are you using those embellishments on your layout? Why did you choose that photo? If you use a brad, it should be to fasten not to decorate. Photos should tell a story and not just be extras you took. Make every item on your layout have purpose.

