

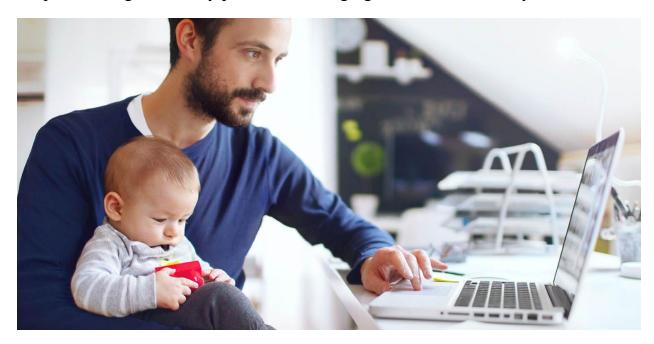
A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE ON TIME MANAGEMENT FOR MODERN PARENTS

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ABSTRACT

In today's fast-paced world, effective time management is crucial for modern parents striving to balance work, family, and personal well-being. This comprehensive guide explores essential strategies and practical tips tailored to the unique challenges faced by parents in managing their time efficiently.



Understanding Priorities: The first step in effective time management is identifying priorities. Modern parents juggle multiple responsibilities, from career demands to childcare and household chores. By clarifying what matters most, parents can allocate their time more effectively and reduce stress.

Effective Communication: Clear communication is key to managing family and work responsibilities. Tips for effective communication with partners, children, and employers are discussed, ensuring that everyone understands expectations and commitments.

Self-care and Balance: Balancing parental responsibilities with self-care is vital for overall well-being. This guide emphasizes the importance of scheduling time for relaxation, hobbies, exercise, and social connections, helping parents maintain energy and resilience.

Adapting to Change: Flexibility is crucial in managing the dynamic challenges of parenthood. Strategies for adapting schedules and priorities during times of change

or crisis are explored, empowering parents to navigate unexpected situations effectively.

By implementing these strategies and adapting them to their unique circumstances, modern parents can cultivate effective time management skills that enhance productivity, reduce stress, and foster a healthier work-life balance for themselves and their families.

LET'S GET STARTED

Sure! Here's an overview of the comprehensive guide on time management for modern parents:

- 1. Introduction to Time Management: Discusses the importance of managing time effectively in today's busy world, especially for parents balancing multiple responsibilities.
- 2. Understanding Priorities: Emphasizes the need for parents to clarify their priorities to allocate time effectively to different aspects of their lives.
- 3. Setting Goals: Explains how goal-setting can help parents stay focused and motivated in managing their time.
- 4. Creating a Schedule: Provides techniques for creating realistic schedules that accommodate both routine tasks and unexpected events.
- 5. Time-saving Strategies: Offers practical tips such as delegation, minimizing distractions, and using technology to save time.
- 6. Effective Communication: Discusses the importance of clear communication with family members and employers to manage responsibilities effectively.
- 7. Self-care and Balance: Highlights the significance of scheduling time for self-care, hobbies, and relaxation to maintain overall well-being.
- 8. Adapting to Change: Provides strategies for adjusting schedules and priorities during times of change or crisis.
- 9. Seeking Support: Encourages parents to build a support network to share responsibilities and receive emotional support.

10. Conclusion: Summarizes the benefits of implementing these time management strategies to enhance productivity, reduce stress, and improve work-life balance for modern parents.

This guide aims to equip modern parents with practical tools and insights to manage their time efficiently amidst the complexities of family, work, and personal commitments.

TIME MANAGEMENT FOR WORKING PARENTS

Time management is crucial for working parents who must juggle the demands of their careers with their responsibilities at home. This guide provides practical strategies tailored to help working parents effectively manage their time:



1. Prioritize Tasks: Identify and prioritize tasks based on urgency and importance. This helps in focusing efforts on activities that contribute most to work and family goals.

- 2. Set Clear Goals: Define clear, achievable goals for both work and family life. Break down larger goals into smaller, manageable tasks to maintain motivation and track progress.
- 3. Establish a Routine: Create a daily and weekly routine that includes dedicated time blocks for work, childcare, household chores, and personal activities. Stick to this routine to build consistency and reduce stress.
- 4. Use Time Blocks: Allocate specific time blocks for different tasks, such as checking emails, project work, and family time. This helps in maintaining focus and avoiding multitasking.
- 5. Delegate Responsibilities: Delegate tasks at work and home where possible. Communicate effectively with coworkers and family members to share responsibilities and lighten the workload.
- 6. Minimize Distractions: Identify and minimize distractions that can derail productivity. This may include setting boundaries for interruptions, turning off notifications, or finding a quiet workspace.
- 7. Utilize Technology: Take advantage of productivity tools and apps to streamline tasks, manage schedules, and collaborate efficiently with colleagues and family members.
- 8. Practice Effective Communication: Maintain open communication with supervisors, coworkers, and family members about priorities, schedules, and expectations. This fosters understanding and support from all parties involved.
- 9. Take Breaks and Rest: Schedule regular breaks throughout the day to recharge and maintain energy levels. Adequate rest and self-care are essential for sustaining productivity and well-being.
- 10. Reflect and Adjust: Regularly review and reflect on time management strategies. Adjust routines and approaches as needed to address challenges and optimize productivity both at work and home.

By implementing these strategies, working parents can enhance their ability to balance professional responsibilities with family commitments, reduce stress, and achieve greater satisfaction in both aspects of their lives.

WHY IS FAMILY FINANCIAL PLANNING IMPORTANT?

Family financial planning is crucial for several reasons:

- 1. Financial Security: Planning helps ensure that families have enough resources to cover essential needs, emergencies, and long-term goals such as education and retirement. It provides a safety net against unforeseen circumstances like job loss or medical expenses.
- 2. Goal Achievement: Effective planning allows families to set and achieve financial goals, whether short-term (like saving for a vacation) or long-term (such as buying a home or funding children's education). It provides a roadmap for reaching these milestones efficiently.
- 3. Reduced Stress: Financial planning reduces stress by providing a sense of control and predictability over finances. It allows families to budget effectively, manage debt, and avoid financial crises that can strain relationships and wellbeing.
- 4. Investment in the Future: Planning ensures families can invest wisely in assets that appreciate over time, such as retirement accounts or real estate. This builds wealth and financial stability for future generations.
- 5. Education and Awareness: It promotes financial literacy and awareness within the family. Parents can educate children about money management, saving habits, and responsible spending, setting them up for financial independence and success later in life.



- 6. Adaptability to Life Changes: Financial planning prepares families for life changes such as marriage, having children, or aging parents. It helps adjust budgets, insurance coverage, and investment strategies accordingly.
- 7. Estate Planning: Planning includes considerations for estate planning, ensuring that assets are distributed according to wishes and minimizing tax implications. It protects the family's legacy and ensures a smooth transition of wealth.
- 8. Improved Decision Making: Families with a financial plan make more informed decisions about major purchases, investments, and lifestyle choices. They can weigh options based on financial goals and values.

Overall, family financial planning provides peace of mind, stability, and the foundation for achieving both short-term and long-term aspirations. It fosters responsible financial behaviors and strengthens family unity by aligning financial decisions with shared goals and values.

9 WAYS TO SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR KIDS

Have a Daily Check-In

One way to do this is to ask a mix of open-ended and specific questions: What was the most interesting thing they learned in class? Did they try something new at lunch? Who did they play with at recess? If you could change one thing about your school, what would it be? The key to these conversations is making them less of a routine questioning and more of a launching pad for quality time, talking about things that are important in your child's day-to-day routine.

Use Special Rituals Like Bath Time and Bedtime

Let's face it: Life moves more smoothly when routines and rituals are in place. They help us—and our children—know what to expect, and what comes next.2 But instead of using this time to hurry along the moments before bed, for example, use it to create quality time with your kids.

Sing to your child during their bath, picking a favorite song or a new tune you both just heard. Make teeth brushing a game. If your child is into outer space, for example, you can pretend they are destroying asteroids with each and every stroke. And read a story at bedtime. If your child is older, let them read to you. When you take time to share things that pique their interest, they feel heard, seen, and appreciated.

Celebrate Achievements and a Job Well Done

Anytime you have the opportunity to celebrate your kids, do it! And no, we aren't just talking about when they get an "A" on a test or perform exceptionally well at a sporting event. Have they stepped outside their comfort zone to try something new? Did they give their all and put lots of work and thought into a project? Celebrating the effort they put in, their successes, and how they learned from mistakes are all great opportunities for quality time that also reinforces positive behaviors.



Let Your Kids Choose

Ask your child how they want to spend time with you. Do they want to play together, color together, or craft together? Maybe throw a baseball, play a board game, or have a dance party? Giving them the reins isn't just empowering, it can be a pleasant surprise (i.e., you might learn something about their interests you didn't know before).

Keep It Low Tech

There is no escape from technology in your day-to-day life. From school and work to the nightly news and winding down, screens are everywhere. They play a role in our lives but we can all use a break.4

Baking together or reading a book are great ways to bond. Getting outside to bike, walk, or hike keeps kids active and engaged. You can do a scavenger hunt or obstacle course, too. The important thing is to choose an activity that encourages healthy media habits, stimulates the senses, and fosters connection.

Have a Day Date

Plan some time in your schedule that's free, and do a fun activity. You can paint pottery, go to the library, or even take a picnic lunch to the playground. Quality time isn't about the amount of time (or money) you spend together, it's about what you do together to create memories.

Plan a Family Movie or Game Night

Another fun way to spend quality time with your kids is to introduce them to games and shows you grew up with as a kid. Many games involve strategy and math skills, which help make learning fun. Many old shows and movies tell timeless tales and teach valuable lessons too. Both you and your kids will be amazed at how quickly time flies when you're having fun together.

Create and Cook Together

Even the pickiest of eaters will be on board with the opportunity to help plan or make their own meals and snacks. Cooking and creating together is a real-time example of showing your children that their ideas and opinions matter.

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE FOR WORKING PARENTS

A few useful tips to successfully manage the unique challenges of raising kids while running a company.



1. Systems and infrastructure are essential

Being your own boss can bring tremendous freedom, flexibility, and focus on bigpicture issues. It also brings responsibility for handling all the underlying operations: IT, tax reporting ... all the infrastructure someone else deals with at a larger organization. Unless you're realistic, creative, and disciplined about those nuts-and-bolts demands, they can become overwhelming and crowd out the time you should be spending on higher-order activities -- and with your family.

2. You can recreate family-friendly benefits at your own company

Perks like backup child care, lactation rooms, and a working parents network group are great -- and they're not exclusive to big companies. "It's possible to find

or build similar supports at an entrepreneurial company or working for yourself," said Dowling.

And if you're running a company, offering these benefits is not just about getting the support you need -- it's also about creating a new and better template for all working parents.

3. Expand your definition of flexibility

If you've been running your own company for a while, you already know that entrepreneurship is not a cakewalk when it comes to time and stress management.

While you do have more freedom to work the way you want, many entrepreneurs end up working even more hours than they did when working inside a company or feel that they need to say yes to more client work, projects, or travel simply to create momentum within the business -- and that can take a personal toll.

"There's a huge upside to working for yourself, but it's not the Land of Milk and Honey by any means," Dowling said. "When the proverbial buck stops with you, you have to decide how, when, and where to stop working, and that can be tough."

So what to do? Dowling suggests that parent-entrepreneurs expand their definition of flexibility to include strategies such as shifted hours, condensed weeks, and seasonal on-off approaches; that they set specific, concrete targets (such as one full day off per week); and that they carefully consider how to make flextime not just relaxing but restorative.

She points to one of her parent-interviewees, a venture-backed startup co-founder and new dad who realized that without his regular marathon-training runs, he wasn't at his best as a parent or professional. "He continued putting in a lot of hours, but those exercise breaks made him a better leader and better dad," said Dowling.

4. You get to set the boundaries -- but that may be difficult to do

When you work for someone else, the "on" and "off" switches are clearly marked. "When you're running your own company," Dowling said, "the switches may be hazier, dynamic, or harder to find, and you'll have to set them without guidance, precedent, or anyone else's express approval."

And that can be really difficult to do. But you can also integrate your family and work lives in some wonderful ways. "One of my clients, a founder of a law firm, kept a porta-crib next to her desk and brought her daughter to the courtroom in a sling when she was three weeks old," Dowling said. "Her four kids are now teens, and they help out at her office and accompany her to conferences and learn so much from those experiences."

As an entrepreneurial working parent, you are ultimately responsible for organizing and directing your career and family life. It's no easy task, but thinking through these universal truths -- and how you will respond to them -- will help you feel more calm, capable, and confident about combining kids and your business.

5 SPECIAL THINGS ABOUT PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

Being a parent is rewarding. Being a parent is hard.

The experience is, in fact, filled with dichotomies. Time goes so slow...time flies. You can't wait until your child walks... your anxiety rises as they walk, no, run independently. Pride as they get their first job... angst when they move out.

The relationships that children have with caring adults are strong predictors of future emotional well-being. Researchers in the area of relationship dynamics and developmental psychology examine the effects of parents on children and children on parents and describe five elements that make the Parent-Child relationship unique, special and complex.

1. The relationship isn't voluntary!

Unlike many other situations in which a person can enter or leave a relationship without a great amount of conflict and energy, a parent-child connection is what researchers call a "closed field." This means that the involuntary relationship is expected to be permanent and develops a history and routine.

2. There are oodles of interactions!

Parents and children interact more with each other than in any other relationship. Typically there are predictable patterns of behaviour and routines. Because of these

patterns and resulting expectations, parent-child interactions are usually driven by and result in consequences.



3. Expectation is the great influencer.

Strong expectations often exist in parent-child interactions and both parents and children make constant adjustments to their usual behavior around these expectations.

4. A "forever" future exists.

Parent-child relationships carry expectations of a shared future. Both parent and child have long term goals for the relationship that influences most interactions. The interpretation of this "forever" future is both strengthened and challenged along the journey of growing up.

5. Growing up changes everyone.

Parents and children grow older together, and experience the changes in themselves, and their relationships together. It is not only about the incredible changes in children over time, but parents are aging and transitioning in critical ways too. The changes consistently evolve the relationship over time.

Mindful parenting is an approach that embraces the ever-changing dynamics of parent-child interactions. By developing skills such as emotional awareness, self-regulation, compassion and intentionality, parents and their children can better navigate the complexity of relationship transitions over time.

WHY QUALITY TIME MATTERS BETWEEN BUSY PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO MAINTAIN CONNECTION

We are here to simplify the way you think about quality time so you can see that it is not only manageable but invaluable too.

In today's fast-paced world, quality time between busy parents and children is more than just a luxury—it's essential for maintaining a strong, healthy connection that nurtures emotional well-being and builds lasting bonds. Here's why quality time matters and how it positively impacts the parent-child relationship.

Building Trust and Security:

Quality time allows parents to create a secure and trusting environment where children feel valued and loved. When parents actively engage with their children, whether through conversations, activities, or shared experiences, it reinforces the child's sense of importance and belonging within the family unit. This emotional connection forms the foundation for a strong parent-child relationship built on trust and mutual respect.

Enhancing Communication Skills:

Spending quality time together provides opportunities for meaningful conversations and interactions. It allows parents to listen attentively to their children's thoughts, feelings, and concerns, fostering open communication. Children learn to express themselves confidently and develop essential communication skills that are crucial for their social and emotional development.

Supporting Emotional Development:

Quality time helps parents understand their children's emotions and needs better. By being present and actively involved in their lives, parents can offer guidance, comfort, and reassurance during challenging times. This emotional support is essential for nurturing resilience and helping children navigate the complexities of their emotions in a healthy manner.



Promoting Positive Behavior:

Children thrive in environments where they receive positive attention and reinforcement from their parents. Quality time spent engaging in activities that are enjoyable and meaningful to both parties reinforces positive behavior and strengthens the parent-child bond. It encourages children to develop a sense of

responsibility, empathy, and cooperation, laying the groundwork for positive social interactions and relationships

Creating Lasting Memories:

Memorable experiences shared during quality time create lasting memories that children cherish throughout their lives. Whether it's a family vacation, a game night, or a simple outing to the park, these shared moments contribute to a child's sense of identity and belonging within the family. They provide a sense of continuity and connection across generations, fostering a family culture that values togetherness and shared experiences.

Balancing Priorities and Values:

In today's busy world, quality time allows parents to prioritize their values and commitments to family. It encourages a healthy work-life balance by carving out dedicated time for meaningful interactions with their children. By demonstrating the importance of family relationships through actions, parents instill values of love, respect, and dedication that children carry forward into their own lives.

Building Resilience and Self-Esteem:

Quality time spent with parents provides children with opportunities to learn, explore, and discover their interests and strengths. Through supportive interactions and encouragement, parents help build their children's self-esteem and confidence. Children develop a sense of resilience as they navigate challenges with the guidance and reassurance of their parents, knowing they have a strong support system to rely on.

In conclusion, quality time between busy parents and children is invaluable for nurturing a strong, loving, and supportive relationship. It fosters emotional well-being, enhances communication skills, promotes positive behavior, creates lasting memories, and reinforces family values. By making a conscious effort to prioritize quality time amidst hectic schedules, parents not only strengthen their bond with their children but also contribute to their overall development and happiness.

9 TIME-SAVING HACKS FOR WORKING PARENTS TO MAINTAIN A CLEAN HOME

Being a parent, keeping your home neat and clean all the time can seem like an impossible task. Working full-time and then taking care of cleaning tasks is no easy job. Even if you mop the kitchen floors, there will be spilled milk and crumbs all over it again.

The nicely polished steel appliances will collect fingerprints again. The couch might get stained. Ignoring this situation is not ideal because a dirty home can pose health risks not only to you but to your children as well. You will need to change your approach and utilise some tried and tested strategies to get the job done quickly. When you are nearing the end of your tenancy, hiring professionals who do cheap vacate cleaning Perth is ideal. However, at other times, knowing some hacks will help you manage the tasks effectively. Here are 9 time-saving hacks for working parents to maintain a clean home. Utilise them to keep dust and dirt away.



1. Focus On One Spot At A Time

It is not recommended to complete all the cleaning tasks at once. Distributing your cleaning duties throughout the week will make it much easier for you to complete them on time. It will reduce the time you will need to spend on cleaning each day. The cleaning work should not take more than half an hour every day if you simply

divide the responsibilities. For instance, you can dedicate one day to cleaning the kitchen, one day to cleaning the bathroom, etc.

2. Purchase Quality Cleaning Machines

It might seem like there is no need to invest in cleaning machines if you can do all the work yourself. But if you want to reduce the overall time cleaning takes, machines will help significantly. This includes dishwashers and robot vacuums. You do not need to spend 20 minutes washing the dishes 2 to 3 times a day if you can just position them in a dishwasher. Time is valuable, and that is why expert vacate cleaners Perth recommend investing in cleaning machines.

3. Get Your Kids Involved

Involving your kids in age-appropriate simple cleaning tasks will help you get the job done. For instance, let the kids unload the dishwasher when you are busy cleaning the bedroom. Similarly, before vacuuming, request the kids to help in picking the loose stuff and place them back in their original places. Teach your children to put their toys back in their proper places.



4. Ensure The Cleaning Supplies Are Always Ready

Always have your cleaning tools and supplies accessible. It is not ideal to spend some time to find the tool you need immediately. If you have it nearby, you can just pick it up and use it right away. Also, prepare a checklist of which supplies you need to buy next time you are shopping. Having the essential ones on hand at all times will prove to be helpful when you are looking to eliminate dust or clean certain spots.

5. Clean The Spot That Makes You Upset

It is more than possible that you keep seeing a messy spot in your home, and it disturbs you the most. In such situations, it is best to clean this spot first before moving on to others. Just by dealing with it first, you can feel much more relaxed. Because you completed the hardest task first, the rest of your work will feel much easier.

6. Do Speed Cleaning

A great way to make cleaning easier for you is to do speed cleaning. Experts who do the best vacate cleaning Perth recommend this method to ensure your cleaning tasks do not take much time. Simply set a timer of 5 to 10 minutes and try to complete that specific cleaning task within that timeframe. This method makes you more efficient and allows you to stay focused on the task at hand.

7. Declutter Regularly

To maintain a clutter-free and clean home, it is a must to get rid of unwanted stuff on a regular basis. The last thing you want is to keep the items you do not use in your home. So, from time to time, analyse all your items and get rid of the ones that no longer serve you. Donating or selling the item will be a good idea if it is still in good shape. This way, you will have fewer things, making the cleaning work easier.

8. Create A Cleaning Schedule

Creating a cleaning schedule and sticking to it is the ideal way to keep your home clean, according to the budget vacate cleaners Perth. This schedule should include tasks that need to be completed on a daily basis and the ones that you can do once

a month. Identify the everyday tasks and include them in your routine. As for the weekends, only schedule the number of tasks you can manage. Once your cleaning schedule is ready, follow it consistently for the best results.

9. Deep Clean Your Home Every Month

Although following a basic cleaning schedule will be enough to maintain a clean home, some issues might require a more thorough cleaning. Ideally, you should hire professionals for this task since it takes a lot of time and effort. Otherwise, you can choose a day when you and all your family members are present. Divide the tasks to ensure the work gets completed quickly.

Wrapping Up

It is a fact that maintaining a neat and clean home is difficult for a working parent. It may look that no matter how much you clean the space, it is not enough. This is where using some hacks can help a lot. Follow the ones mentioned in this article to maintain a clean home.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, effective time management is not just a tool for modern parents—it's a cornerstone of maintaining balance, reducing stress, and fostering meaningful connections within the family dynamic. Throughout this comprehensive guide, we've explored essential strategies tailored to the unique challenges faced by parents juggling multiple roles and responsibilities.

Firstly, **prioritization** emerges as a fundamental principle. By identifying and focusing on what matters most, whether it's fulfilling work commitments, spending quality time with children, or nurturing personal well-being, parents can allocate their time and energy more efficiently. This clarity helps in making informed decisions about how to invest time effectively across various aspects of life.

Setting **clear goals** plays a pivotal role in guiding parental actions and ensuring alignment with long-term aspirations. Whether aiming for career advancement, supporting children's educational pursuits, or maintaining a healthy work-life balance, well-defined goals provide direction and motivation.

Creating and adhering to a **structured schedule** is another key takeaway. Modern parents benefit from establishing routines that accommodate both routine tasks and unexpected events. This approach not only enhances productivity but also reduces the chaos often associated with managing multiple responsibilities.

Strategies for **saving time**, such as delegating tasks, minimizing distractions, and leveraging technology, are essential in optimizing efficiency. By streamlining processes and eliminating unnecessary activities, parents can reclaim valuable time that can be reinvested into more meaningful pursuits.

Effective **communication** with partners, children, and employers is vital for managing expectations and fostering collaboration. Clear and open dialogue ensures that everyone involved understands priorities and commitments, reducing misunderstandings and conflicts.

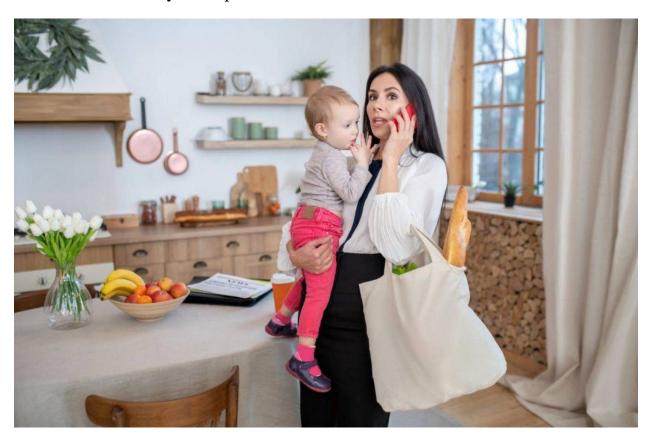
Equally important is the emphasis on **self-care and balance**. Recognizing the importance of personal well-being, including physical health, mental wellness, and leisure activities, is crucial for sustained energy and resilience. Taking time for oneself ultimately enhances one's ability to meet the demands of parenting and professional life.

Flexibility and adaptability are also highlighted as parents navigate the inevitable **changes and challenges** that life brings. Being prepared to adjust schedules and priorities allows for proactive management of disruptions while maintaining momentum towards overarching goals.

Lastly, the guide underscores the value of **building a support network**. Whether through family, friends, or community resources, having a strong support system provides encouragement, assistance, and a sense of belonging during both the triumphs and trials of parenthood.

In conclusion, by implementing these strategies and principles, modern parents can cultivate effective time management skills that not only optimize productivity and reduce stress but also enrich the quality of their relationships with their children and partners. The ability to balance competing demands while nurturing personal well-being ensures that parents can thrive in both their professional endeavors and their roles as loving, present caregivers. Ultimately, effective time management

empowers parents to create a harmonious and fulfilling life for themselves and their families in today's fast-paced world.



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