

A Working Mother Takes Vacation

She's a working mother
On the job from five to ten
By day she works the boardroom
By night she juggles housework and homework

But now, she's on vacation
She's exchanged her power suit for a swimsuit,
Her smart phone for the shade of a palm tree
The crashing waves drive out the mental muzak
And sensitize her to the happy yelps of her children,
Frolicking like seals in the surf

Today, she's director of "Kid Med"
Her project plan for QFL¹
It's a pleasure to execute
And the only CLM² is selecting the wrong soda pop from the cooler
When her little whales beach themselves
Long enough to enjoy lunch

She knows that this week that seems to last forever
Won't last long enough
She accepts gritty S'mores from sticky hands
That haven't gotten the message about CPI³
Together, they enjoy a sunset more brilliantly moving
Than any PowerPoint presentation she's given

Back home, she's physically exhausted,
Mentally relaxed
Her little sand crabs are scrubbed, fed, and tucked into bed,
Dreaming of the waves dancing on the beach

She sits up in the silent house
Reflecting on fulfillment of a personal mission
Knowing that ROF⁴ is more valuable
Than any earnings report she'll ever review
She closes her eyes and begins to upload the memories she'll need
To power her through to the next vacation

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¹ QFL – Quality of Family Life, a spoof on QWL, Quality of Work Life

² CLM – Career Limiting Move

³ CPI – Continuous Process Improvement

⁴ ROF – Return on Family, a spoof on ROI, Return on Investment