

San Francisco Examiner
Wednesday Oct 27, 1982

Marin Woman A Working Mother's Survival Kit

A clean Marin sweep: Where to find it

IF YOU WANT a clean house, working mama, rule number one is it's not just your house. It's not your total responsibility. The time you take to teach your kid to carry out such chores as scraping and rinsing his ~~and~~ plate, folding and

putting away his own clothes and picking up his toys will be repaid to you a hundred times over — probably in the first week.

As for your husband or partner or significant other, one possible way to avoid ridiculous arguments is to sit down, assign points to tasks, (you'll be surprised at how you agree on your "ratings") and divide up the points. Volla. No more hassle. Well, not always. You may find, particularly if you have more than two children, a long commute, a 40-hour-plus week, or just a tough job, that you simply can't do it all — you can't keep your house as neat and clean as you like it. If that's the case the only alternative is to hire someone.

In Marin there are several agencies that specialize in the kind of light weekly housekeeping that you as a working parent will probably need: once a week or maybe once every two weeks. As the old cliché goes, they often won't do windows or heavy work, but they'll come in for four hours or, if needed, for eight hours and clean the house. The housekeepers are bonded, and it's not necessary for you to be there after you've shown them what needs to be done. Typically they don't provide the cleaning gear, you do.

Here's a partial list of agencies in Marin.

Brenda's Cleaning Referral, 453-3386. If you like the housekeeper Brenda sends, that housekeeper can become your "regular." She gets to know your house and your routine and you won't have to waste time explaining what you want done. Brenda's will take care of everything: scrub the kitchen, the bathroom, do the floors and the dusting. They'll even organize your

closet and drawers if you like. There's a minimum of three hours and the charge is \$7.50 an hour.