

“Mom, You’ve Got This”

by
Suzanne Davis

- What** This readers theater reminds us that moms can often be critical and judgmental of other moms and encourages women and mothers in the audience to support and help each other.
Themes: Moms, Mother’s Day, Women, Encouragement
- Who** **Jessica-** mom of young children
Christine- mom of young children
Joni- any age
Cari- any age
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Four chairs
Coffee mugs (optional)
All characters wear casual clothing
- Why** 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- How** This script portrays two separate conversations, however the women narrating (Jessica and Christina) are sharing virtually the same experience. Make sure the timing is well rehearsed so that this comes across effectively.
- Time** Approximately 4 minutes

Jessica and Christina sit in chairs Center Stage, back to back (unaware of each other's presence). Seated across from Jessica is Joni, and across from Christina is Cari.

Jessica: *(to Joni, conversationally)* So we're at the playground, and J.J. climbs all the way up to the top of that curvy ladder thing, right? And then he looks down and suddenly starts panicking...

Christina: *(to Cari, conversationally)* ...and she can't get down, because there are kids behind her, and she starts crying and screaming for me.

Jessica: So there I am, climbing up the ladder on the *other* side of that platform thing, trying to get to him before he slips off, or knocks someone else down...

Joni: Seriously, you let your TWO-year-old climb that ladder? At that age, you've got to stay on them every minute.

Christina: So, I managed to reach her from the other side, and pulled her up to the platform, calm her down...

Cari: Girl, you can't just *rescue* your kid every time she's in trouble. How is she ever going to learn? You've heard the phrase... *(makes a helicopter noise and moves her finger in a circle to illustrate)* ...Helicopter Mom?

Jessica: So, we leave the playground, and we have to stop at the store on the way home.

Joni: Don't you plan ahead? You know it's those deviations from the schedule that bring on the behavior problems.

Christina: We made a quick stop after the playground. We were out of milk.

Jessica: We were out of everything. We still haven't recovered from—well, you know. Life.

Christina: So we get the milk, the eggs, the pull-ups—

Cari: Wa-aaaait a minute. Ava's still in pull-ups? I keep telling you. The longer she's in pull-ups, the lower her self-confidence is going to be.

Jessica: We get the bread, the Goldfish crackers, everything's going fine. Three kids in the grocery cart and no meltdowns. And then we're heading down aisle 3 and J.J. has an accident.

Joni: Good grief, Jess. You're in a hurry, just put a pull-up on him. Why are you rushing this whole potty training thing?

Jessica: So we have to go *all* the way across the store to the bathroom, we have to change his clothes—you know, into a pair of pants I have to buy off

the rack cause I'm not hauling three kids back to the car to get the change of clothes...

Joni: I told you. You have to start planning ahead.

Christina: And then we head to the checkout and of course she notices the candy. And don't even tell me about those "no-candy aisles". They're full of sparkly crayons and princess coloring books. It's a no-win.

Jessica: We're finally on our way out. Noah sees the chocolate. I'm like, "No. We're going to go home and eat dinner. You're not having chocolate before dinner."

Christina: She starts grabbing the candy off the shelf and I'm saying "no" and putting it back. She's screaming, "I WANT CANDY!"

Jessica: He's on the floor. He's actually on the floor of Walmart, kicking and screaming. And it's not even the two-year-old, it's the preschooler. Can I crawl under the cash register?

Christina: She's grabbing the candy back off the shelf. I take her hands and we have a talk. I give her a warning. She's not listening. I have to do it. I take her to the car and give her a swat on the behind.

Cari: You *spanked* her?

Jessica: I just let him go at it. Everyone's staring and I'm *dying*. Finally, I pick him up and we're off to the car.

Joni: See, that's the moment when you've got to show the kid who's in charge. (*She gestures, mimicking a parent spanking a child*)

Cari: You *spanked* her? Granted, she's still in diapers, but seriously. You're just teaching her to hit.

Joni: You're teaching him to not expect consequences.

Jessica: We *finally* get home and start dinner. We're trying to follow this meal plan, and this particular night, it's fish on the menu.

Christina: We're cooking salmon. You know, essential fatty acids... ANNND it cooks in ten minutes. I put it in front of Ava with some green beans—and it was the end of the world as she knew it.

Jessica: J.J. is like, "This chicken tastes weird. I want hot dogs." I'm like, "We had hot dogs last night. We're going to eat this tonight." He bursts into tears.

Christina: I said, "Nope. You eat this or you wait till breakfast." She wouldn't eat it. So that was that, I sent her to bed.

Cari: Wait a sec. You sent your kid to bed without any supper? Isn't that, like, borderline abuse?

Jessica: He started crying and gagging. I had to give him *something*. So... he had hot dogs again. I mean, what else could I do?

Joni: What else could you do? You could say "no". He'll eat in the morning, it's not like he's going to starve. I can't believe you caved.

Cari: I can't believe you let her go hungry.

Jessica: You know, this parenting thing...

Christina: It's hard.

Jessica: It's really hard.

Christina: I'm tired. Tired of trying to meet the expectations.

Jessica: Tired of trying to measure up.

Joni: Well, you can't listen to everything you hear.

Cari: You can't go with everything you read.

Christina: Sometimes I just want to hear someone say something like—

Jessica: *(turning slightly, facing center stage)*"You've got this."

Christina: *(turning slightly, also facing center stage)*"You've got this."

Jessica: Cause when it comes down to it, God's got *me*, and I'm just hanging onto Him for dear life.

Christina: He knows what's best for my daughter. I'm trying to listen to him...

Jessica: And to discern when people's input is helpful for me...and when it isn't.

Joni and Cari stand and exit opposite directions.

Jessica stands and faces Christina. She offers her hand as if to pull Christina up.

Jessica: Let's help each other.

Christina accepts Jessica's hand and rises to her feet.

Christina: Let's pray for each other.

Together: We've got this. *(Lights out)*