



Functions of Motherhood



If the sick 18 month old naps at 3:30, eats at 5, collapses at 7:40, cries at 1, is sick at 3, sick again at 5, awakens fussy at 8 – how much sleep does this mother get. Solve for x.

Find the lowest common denominator of three spiking fevers; the product of exhausted efforts; the greater sum of your parts.

Borrow when you need to
carry when you must (integers, medicine, life)
when you multiply,
divide your labours
solve for differences and
memorize the quotient of survival.

It becomes second nature, calculating constantly (the estimated time 'til next dosage, nearest bathroom the variable of tantrums) – and amid the jumble of numbers and schedules, you'll find yourself staring at the midnight ceiling, digits spinning, mind swirling, thriving on the universal content of their need.