

Empowered Mothers and Daughters Holding a Discussion About Differing Ideas

Story:

Maria was looking forward to her afternoon. Maria had become good friends with Rebecca, a new girl in the neighborhood, and they were going to play soccer.

"Bye Mom!" Maria said as she left her house.

"Bye Sweetie!" her mom called, "have a fun time and be home in time for dinner!" Maria walked down the street, turned the corner, and walked to the neighborhood park which also had a big soccer field. Maria could see Rebecca waiting for her.

"Hi Rebecca," said Maria.

"Hi Maria!" Rebecca said. They kicked the ball back and forth, they tried to defend the goal from one another. After a while of playing both girls were tired, and they sat down to rest and talk.

"Maria, what do you want to be when you grow up?" Rebecca asked.

Maria didn't even hesitate. "I want to be a mom."

Rebecca looked puzzled. "Why would you want to be that?"

Maria thought for a moment. "Well, I really love my siblings, and I see the things my mom has done for us. I think it would be fun to have a family." Maria paused, then asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up, Rebecca?"

"I want to have a career. I'm not sure if I want to be a realtor, or a doctor, or even something else, but what is most important to me is having a job like my mom."

Maria was surprised. She had never thought that much about having a career outside the home. Maria thought about all the time her mom spent with her and her siblings. What would it mean if she was working instead? Maria had many questions.

"Rebecca, what is it like having your mom work outside the home?"

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Stop and Discuss:

What might it be, *or is*, like to have a mom working outside the home. What are some good things about it? What might not be so good?

Story (continued):

Rebecca thought for a moment. "My mom works Monday through Friday, and sometimes she is needed on Saturdays. I see her at dinner, and maybe a bit after, but sometimes she has to work late. Those days I don't really see her much. What's it like having your mom stay at home with you?"

Stop and Discuss:

What might it be, *or is*, like to have a mom at home with you? What are some good things about it? What might not be so good?

Story (continued):

Maria answered, "My mom is always there when I get home from school. She helps me with whatever homework I have. If I had a bad day, or I'm feeling sad, my mom can tell and takes time to listen to me. She plays with me and my siblings, cooks our meals and treats, and sometimes we even have dance parties."

Rebecca didn't say anything for a moment. "You know Maria, that sounds really nice. I'm so proud of my mom and what she's able to do, but sometimes I miss her. I do wonder what it would be like to see her more."

Maria and Rebecca both pondered on their conversation as they gathered their things, said "good-bye," and headed home.