

# MOTHERING OR SMOTHERING?

Words: Tanya Curtis



**MOTHERING AND SMOTHERING. TWO VERY SIMILAR WORDS IN ANNUNCIATION BUT, BY GEEZ BY GINGO, THEIR MEANINGS ARE POLAR OPPOSITE!**

What is mothering? And what is smothering? And which do you choose? First we must understand that mothering is not restricted to those who have given birth to a child. In truth, we can all play the role of a mother (even those males out there).

**The mother role, in truth:**

- ✓ Provides love, care, nurturing, development and so much more as they support young people to become independent, responsible and connected beings.
- ✓ Knows the beauty of a child comes from the inside out and knows a child's essence is of far greater importance than anything their child does.
- ✓ Embraces their child as a human being and never as a human doing.
- ✓ Supports a child to live and meet their full potential, in the knowing that inside that small body is one very wise and already all-knowing being who simply requires guidance,

love and boundaries to support them to meet and exceed this potential.

- ✓ Always asks 'What's next for this child?'
- ✓ Supports a child 100 per cent but never at the expense of themselves.
- ✓ Raises children with the intent of making their own role redundant.

But simply add an 's' to the word 'mother' and we have 'smother'.

**One who smothers:**

- ✓ Ticks all the boxes and does a lot - and I mean A LOT for their child. In fact a smotherer often does for their child far beyond what their child actually needs.
- ✓ Provides for their children in a way that results in their child being dependent.
- ✓ Does and continues to do for their child what their child could otherwise learn and do for themselves.

- ✓ Raises a child in a manner that has the child 'needing' a mother but actually wanting another smotherer later in life.
- ✓ Raises children so they themselves still have a role and are still needed far beyond their time of parenting.
- ✓ Raises a child in a way that keeps their child small, hindering their development and delaying their potential.

Clearly, a mother in truth and a smotherer are two very different roles, resulting in two undeniably different end products.

This month, the question we can ask is "Am I celebrating Mother's Day or Smotherer's Day?". Are there any corrections I can make to truly support the young people around me to live and meet their true potential? Food for thought.

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