



Ask the Telecommuting Expert

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Q:

How can I maintain my productivity and focus during the summer when my kids are home from school and creating quite a few distractions?

A:

Since your children are at least school age, this is somewhat easier to manage than if you had younger children. Either way, an important tenant of telecommuting is that it's NOT a substitute for childcare. So if your children are young enough that they can't reasonably be expected to care for themselves until your workday is complete, you'll need to make formal childcare arrangements. This might involve paid babysitting, arrangements with relatives or friends, enrollment in various camps or classes, etc. It's imperative that you manage childcare needs with the same care, attention, and planning that would be necessary if you worked out of your home. On the other hand, if your children are older, able to care for and entertain themselves at home while you are working, you will realize one of the side benefits of telecommuting. Certainly your presence at home—even if your children are older and somewhat independent—is a benefit in a myriad of ways.

For more information about telecommuting successfully, check out these resources:

Booklet: [Tips for Teleworking Successfully while Managing Family Issues](#)

Mini Book: [Working Well with Your Family](#)

Book: ["101 Tips for Telecommuters"](#)

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Telecommuting expert **Debra A. Dinnocenzo** is a seasoned telecommuter and telemanager. She shares her telecommuting experience as author of the best-selling book, [101 Tips for Telecommuters](#) and the companion guide, [Managing Telecommuters](#).

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