

£31,500 a year: The cost of a mother's love if they were paid for all their help with childcare and chores

- **Mothers spend 71 hours every week on household work**
- **Study claims fathers spend only 53.5 hours a week, worth £24,000 if paid**
- **Only 73 per cent of families feel in control of their finances**

By Daily Mail Reporter

Mothers would be earning £31,500 a year if they were paid for looking after the children and doing housework, according to research.

The average mother spends 71 hours on household chores every week, including food shopping and cleaning. The average father spends 53.5 hours a week doing housework, which would earn him a salary of £24,000 if it were paid work.



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Insurers Legal & General, which commissioned the Value of a Parent report, found that it costs £154,400 to raise one child from birth to the age of 18.

That sum would mean parents spend £8,850 a year on their children, on average. Only 73 per cent of families said they felt in control of their finances, while 71 per cent said their top priority with money was to make sure they could provide for their children if they died or became unable to earn a living.

Bonnie Burns, director at the insurance company, told the Daily Express: 'We all know what a Herculean job most parents are doing bringing up their children.'

'Our report highlights exactly how important that role is and the value all these odd jobs bring to a smooth-running home.'

'Clearly the financial value of a parent to a family is much higher than you might think and is taken for granted by most, even those doing the work.'