

The tired mother's creed

1. **I shall not judge my house, my kid's summer activities or my crafting skills by Pinterest's standards.**
2. I shall not measure what I've accomplished today by the loads of unfolded laundry but by the assurance of deep love I've tickled into my kids.
3. **I shall say "yes" to blanket forts and see past the chaos to the memories we're building.**
4. I shall surprise my kids with trips to get ice cream when they're already in their pajamas.
5. **I shall not compare myself to other mothers, but find my identity in the God who trusted me with these kids in the first place.**
6. I shall remember that a messy house at peace is better than an immaculate house tied up in knots.
7. **I shall play music loudly and teach my kids the joy of wildly uncoordinated dance.**
8. I shall remind myself that perfect is simply a street sign at the intersection of impossible and frustration in Never Never Land.
9. **I shall embrace the fact that in becoming a mom I traded perfect for a house full of real.**
10. I shall promise to love this body that bore these three children – out loud, especially in front of my daughter.
11. **I shall give my other mother friends the gift of guilt-free friendship.**
12. I shall do my best to admit to my people my "unfine" moments.
13. **I shall say "sorry" when sorry is necessary.**
14. I pray God I shall never be too proud, angry or stubborn to ask for my children's forgiveness
15. **I shall make space in my grown up world for goofball moments with my kids.**
16. I shall love their father and make sure they know I love him.
17. **I shall model kind words – to kids and grown-ups alike.**
18. I shall not be intimidated by the inside of my minivan – this season of chip bags, goldfish crackers and discarded socks too shall pass.
19. **I shall always make time to encourage new moms.**
20. I shall not resent that last call for kisses and cups of water but remember instead that when I blink they'll all be in college.