



**International MOMS Club®
Fact Sheet**

Why All Daytime Activities?

If you've been in the MOMS Club for any length of time, you'll know that not *all* your chapter's activities have to be during the day...

All chapters can have one evening activity each month, and if there is a need for a special event that would mean more than one evening activity in a month, they can ask for a temporary exemption to the one-evening-activity-per-month rule in the Bylaws.

It is true, though, that all other MOMS Club meetings and activities are to be during the day. Business meetings, speakers, outings, playgroups, craft days, exercise groups... our philosophy is that any kind of support that we offer can be done during the day, when all at-home mothers can come, and that they can bring their children with them as they participate.

Why require daytime activities? Wouldn't it be easier to meet and have activities in the evening, when the dads can watch the kids?

It does sound enticing – a calm meeting, uninterrupted by the demands of little voices, a chance to “get away from it all.”

But while it may sound enticing, don't fall for it! There are many reasons why MOMS Clubs meet during the day:

1) First, and primarily, we hold our activities during the day because that's when mothers who stay home need us the most. Mothers' needs for grown-up companionship are greatest during the day, when they're home alone with the little ones!

Add in their need for activities that they can do with their children there, and daytime is the #1 time that at-home mothers need your chapter's support!



2) Also, no matter how well you try to plan it, having evening meetings or activities disrupts family life. We want to encourage families to do things together, and planning activities during the few hours when a family is together during the week only defeats that purpose.

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3) Also, it really isn't safe to encourage mothers with or without their children to go out after dark, unless it's absolutely necessary. Rapes, robberies and worse are facts of life, in any country, even in the safest neighborhoods. We wish this reason didn't have to be listed, but it does. Evenings are not a safe time for mothers to go out, with or without their children.

4) Even if it were safe, it's true that while it may *sound* easier to meet during the evening, for the individual mother, it's usually much harder, especially if she has more than one child.



Evenings are a hectic time for mothers – there's dinner to get on the table and clean up after, baths and bedtimes, homework to check for older children, husbands to spend time with and the next day to prepare for.

Instead of being a calm time, evenings can be one of the most busy times for moms, and adding in outside activities to work into the schedule can be very stressful.

That's one reason why evening activities like MOMS Night Out often fall flat. Mothers say they want to come, and may even enthusiastically sign up for an evening out.

The first month, lots of moms may come. But, as the months roll on and the novelty fades, fewer and fewer moms come. It's just so difficult to arrange – dad gets home late, the kids are cranky and it's just gets easier to bail, instead of doing everything that needs to be done before going out.

5) While some husbands are willing to take care of the children by themselves after a long day at work, some aren't. And, of those who are willing, most are not enthusiastic about it.

Evenings are their recharging time, and even though most enjoy having their families about them, they often either don't feel comfortable or enjoy being the one to shepherd the children through their dinners, baths and bedtime alone.

If a husband is not enthusiastic about taking care of the children by himself after a long day of work, and the chapter plans a lot of evening activities, the mother is going to have to choose between the MOMS Club and her husband. Which do you think she's going to choose?

Even if she chooses to go out, it puts an extra stress on both her and their relationship. No mother should be put in that position by a chapter that wants to support the at-home mother and family life.

6) In the years since the MOMS Club was started, we have come to realize that many mothers are not even given a "choice" of going to an evening meeting or letting their husbands relax.



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We have seen very clearly through the years that some husbands are not supportive enough to give their wives a choice in much of anything. Those unsupportive husbands actually prevent their wives from attending evening activities, either by pointedly demanding that their wives stay home or by more subtle messages that she is neglecting them.

While we consider such relationships abusive, such relationships are, in fact, extremely common. As puzzling as such a relationship may seem to us, those mothers very desperately need the kind of support that the MOMS Club offers, because often it is the *only* support they will ever receive – and they can only receive it if we meet during the day.

Ironically, if you ask such mothers if they can meet during the evening, they will usually answer, “Yes” – not because they have any real expectation of getting out in the evening, but because they are afraid to stand up and say, “No, I can’t go out after my husband gets home.”

They are embarrassed to admit that their husbands have such control over them and they are usually the kind of person who is afraid to face any peer pressure by revealing that – for them – evening meetings would be impossible.

Whether one can understand their situation or not, by meeting during the day, MOMS Clubs are truly open to *all* at-home mothers, whether or not they have supportive husbands.



7) One of the main points of the MOMS Club’s existence is that mothers should not be isolated from the community. That’s why we plan activities that mothers can go to, with their children, during the hours when they most need support.

How can we blame the community for wanting all mothers to leave their children behind with sitters or in daycare, if we can’t even handle children at our activities?

For all these reasons, the MOMS Club provides activities that mothers can come to with their children. If we didn’t provide those activities, **nobody would!**

For example, in just one community, we found both the adult education school and the parks department offered many evening classes to further careers, for exercise and for fun. The same town also had two bowling alleys with evening leagues, and several of the town’s arts and crafts stores scheduled evening and weekend craft classes. All those activities were “No children allowed.”

In the same town, there were also numerous women’s organizations that either met at night or, if they did meet during the day, did not allow children at their meetings: a new-in-town

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club, a “women’s” club, an association for women who had been to college, women’s groups for all political parties, a woman’s “sorority,” and evening-meeting-only parent/teacher associations for each school in the district! Even the infant breast-feeding support group met only at night!

The list of evening activities without children goes on and on. The list is only short if you want to expand your horizons, be active in the community during the day and still care for your children yourself.

Then it’s only the MOMS Club!

We have received many letters and telephone calls through the years from mothers thanking us for having daytime meetings. Whether those mothers could only come to daytime meetings or whether they simply preferred daytime meetings, we cannot tell.

We do know, however, that those mothers say they never would have even tried the MOMS Club if our meetings were at night.

Not once have we ever received a letter saying that an at-home mother could not – or would not – come to our meetings, because they are held during the day.



Sometimes, it is difficult for a group to manage the children during daytime meetings, but with a little work, understanding and support, it is possible to have wonderful daytime meetings and activities with the children present.

Through the 30+ years that the MOMS Club has been supporting at-home mothers, we’ve seen that daytime meetings can work and that they are the only way we can meet the needs of *all* mothers-at-home!

Our understanding of the special needs of at-home mothers is one of the things that makes the MOMS Club unique! We would not change that for the world!



*If you have any questions
about the MOMS Club
or our daytime activities,
please talk
to your Regional Coordinator!*