

## Day 5, How to make friends the old fashioned way

We got an invitation to a play date today from someone I've never messaged, emailed or chatted with before. I'm not her friend on Facebook, I don't follow her on Twitter and I don't instinctively want to call her some silly screen name like Mommy4Lyfe.

We met at the park earlier this week, introduced by another friend who I also didn't meet online. It was all very 1995... well, except for the texting. That was how I got the invite since she knew I wasn't allowed on the internet this week. Despite this very old-fashioned meet up, I suspect she may also be an internet savvy mom. I saw her checking in on her Iphone before she pulled out of the parking lot at the park in her minivan.

I think smart phones are the new must have for moms. They seem to be about as crucial to our survival as coffee, a good eye cream, yoga pants and a pack of wipes. They've worked hard to earn coveted spots in the already heavy diaper bag. If only there was an app. to make your toddler understand the importance of listening to you when you yell, "stop!" after he magically breaks free from your white knuckles and runs toward the busy street. *Then* maybe they could claim with certainty that there is an app. for "everything" .... but I digress.

I guess you could say it was refreshing to meet other moms this way, to know that I **could** be social and network without the help of internet social networking. It also made me think about all the other women in my neighborhood who I might be missing out on getting to know. In fact, just a couple weeks ago I learned that there is a stay at home mom and a 9 month old little boy only 2 doors down from us. I was thrilled to meet them, and couldn't believe we lived so close for so long and only had the chance to say hi to each other after she saw us running up and down the sidewalk one day and decided to come out and introduce herself.

Don't get me wrong, it's not that we/I spend all day locked up in our house, attached to the computer. It's just that so many of the women in my core support group are so close to me online but physically far away. There are a handful of wonderful gals who live in my neighborhood that I know, but we all have such busy schedules that, even for us, it's easier to communicate with the help of the internet. This isn't how it used to be for moms, though, and I have to wonder if moms in 1995 just had fewer friends, talked on the phone more, or just took advantage of the resources and support physically closest to them?