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Before and After Parenthood

 As a young man growing up, I never thought I would decide to settle down and start a family. I was used to doing what I desired and did not have to worry about a thing. After me and my wife decided to have our first child, so many things changed that made life much more different and difficult for us. We no longer had the energy to come and go without good rest, financially we had to start accounting for every dollar we spent, and a vast majority of our spare time was consumed with child care.

 Unable to get good night of rest for the first five months really took a toll on both of our bodies. Every two hours my son would wake up and cry for the almighty bottle. Either my wife of I would get up and drag our bodies down the steps, into the kitchen and throw a ready made bottle into a pot of water. Having to stand there and wait for the water to get warm was probably the most agonizing part of it all. Imagine waking up at 2 or three in the morning after just getting in the bed from a hard day at work for twelve hours and the human alarm starts to go off. Unfortunately, that alarm has no snooze button to it. It took a while before he began to finally sleep through the night.

The biggest and most important change we faced was the financial aspect of being new parents. Having to add him to the insurance was a change within itself. We were no longer free to spend our money frivolously on ourselves as we did so often in the previous four years as a couple. Now there was a concern with: buying milk, pampers, baby food, and baby clothes. Living in a two income household did not make a huge difference in our financial situation for a long time. We learned to allocate our money to the proper channels, which allowed us to make better use of it without feeling like everything we went to work for on a daily basis was to pay for bills and the baby. Financially, we have had a huge recovery, with the benefit of being able to have the knowledge of where our finances are being used.

Once you become a parent, there is no such belief as having spare time. Parenting is a 24 hr. job with no benefits. I can remember when I was previously able to go out and ride my motorcycle with the guys and stay out for a few hours. I also recall how my wife used to do girls night out with her friends every so often whenever she wanted to. All of that activity has since changed for us. My motorcycle sits in the garage and begs for me to ride, while my wife’s friends ask her “when are you coming to hang out with us again?” All we can do is take it day by day and try to give one another a bit of free time when we feasible to do so.

The joys of parenthood are great and cannot be compared to any else so extraordinary in the world. There are sacrifices that will come when the decision to make such a definitive move comes along in the lives of not just me and my wife, but in the lives of so many others. No matter how much you plan ahead you will never get ahead on your rest, finances, or spare time for yourself. The job is non stop and a constant learning situation for all who have taken that great step.

This is a strong essay about life before and after kids. It has a great thesis, and the topic sentences are clear. However, these topic sentences could have stronger transitions. Also, the writer leaves the decision of whether or not parenthood is a good thing almost entirely up to the reader, which is not as persuasive as it could be. However, this is still an excellent (and passing with an A-) paper.