Fill in the gaps with the words from the box

dawdles	cards	head	fuse	checks	blow-ups

I feel that my maternity leave stalls my career

The dilemma: *I have a ten-month-old daughter and have recently returned to work. Currently, I'm working part-time managing a large project. My boss has offered me another one and a substantial pay rise if I can fully commit to it for half a year. Before I gave birth, I was sure this wouldn't be a difficult decision; my career has always been a priority, so getting overlooked for projects or promotion wasn't on the 1) _____. However, watching my daughter grow has been the most rewarding and enjoyable period of my life. She loves nursery, but the thought of her interacting with her care workers more than me makes me very upset. I feel as if I'd be throwing these early years away. My whole identity has changed and everything I thought was important is being challenged. I know that my boss won't trust me with this project, unless I invest all my time and effort in managing it – he will find someone else on the team. My husband thinks I should go for it, but I'm still in two minds. I'd be grateful if there were any reality 2) _____ as I feel I'm going around in circles.*

I lost my temper with my daughter. I feel I'm failing as a parent

The dilemma: *I'm a single mother of two. My 12-year-old daughter and I have constant disputes and I feel I'm failing at parenting. I don't think it's normal to engage in 3) _____ at her age and I don't want this to be our relationship. I work and find it very hard to balance everything. I can be quite tired and emotionally spent and then not have the patience I need to be the mum I want to be. A few years back we did a class together that was supposed to bring us closer, and it was great. However, things have gone bad again now that she's getting older. She is deliberately naughty and defiant, terribly jealous whenever the younger one gets any attention, slacks on her homework and 4) _____ through the day getting little done. The situation came to a 5) _____ when she lashed out at me with an angry tone and the F-word. I'm not happy with the fact that I had a short 6) _____ and I smacked my daughter. I know my daughter needs more of my time, so the other day I took her out for dinner. It was just us and we had fun. The trouble is I don't have a great deal of free time with the house, the cooking, cleaning, shopping for groceries and working on top of that, too.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS