



M.W. Story 10

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I'm a full time working mama of 2 sweet boys, ages 1 and 3 (about to turn 4). I work in Sales for a software company.

Making Time for Family Fun

When asked to write a Mama Wins story, I wasn't quite sure what to write about. I juggle a more-than-full-time job, a wonderful husband, friends, time with family, 2 wonderful kiddos, a dog, a cat and a partridge in a pear tree. Some weeks we KILL IT, and there are others where... not so much. So, when I thought about it more carefully, I think the thing I love the most is how active we are as a family. I put a lot of effort into scheduling sports (swim lessons, tee ball, toddler soccer), time with friends, time with the kids' friends, time with our extended family, time doing things as our core family unit. We've planned a few trips with our kids to the Wisconsin Dells, memories that I hope my kids will hold onto forever. We rent a cabin with friends who have kids each year, memories I know I'll never forget.

It's a ton of work. Making weekday plans might mean packing clothes and snacks in the morning so that I can pick up the kids and go straight to an event/sport/friend's house. My kids are super social. They are polite and know how to act when out in public (most of the time - am I right??). They have experiences they cherish and a full, well-rounded life. I have a complex calendar system that stores my work meetings: when do I need to dress up at work, when do I have onsite meetings; kid's events, when do I need to pack a bag in the AM, do I need to

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bring a dish to share? When my husband or I need to travel for work, - have I checked into my flight, did I pack my toothbrush; when we have plans that don't involve kids, do we need/already have a babysitter lined up. It's color coded and super complex, but somehow it works for me, and it allows us the flexibility to make plans while still ensuring we're getting done what we need to. It results in my kids getting to see and do so many things. And sure, I have a cleaning person that comes every other week that eliminates a few chores. That helps!! But I think it comes down to wanting it. TO WANTING THOSE EXPERIENCES and making the effort worth it in the long run. I call that my Mama Win. I have some guilt around being a working mom, but I hope my kids are enjoying their lives to the fullest and that the time we do spend together is as special as it can be.