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Blog

LULLABY LOVES...SUZANNE ROBINSON

in Parenting, Interesting, Lullaby Loves

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(http://mummytotwinsplusone.com/)

This week Lullaby Loves blogger Suzanne Robinson, who is mummy to twin girls and a son. Yep...she has her hands full!

Based in the beautiful Blue Mountains, Suzanne's life is anything but tranquil. Documenting her personal experiences, Suzanne provides an honest account of the challenges of family life, twins and motherhood.

Our personal favourite blog of Suzanne's is Having two kids is not like having twins (<http://mummytotwinsplusone.com/having-two-kids-is-not-like-having-twins>), which is a real eye-opener to the reality of newborn twins.

We had the pleasure of chatting to Suzanne to learn a bit more...

Who calls you 'mum'?

Julia, Lillian, and Alexander. I have Identical twin girls and a baby boy.

My twin girls are eight years old and will be nine in September. My baby boy will be two in January.

Describe yourself in 3 words:

- Fun
- Loving
- Adventurous

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a film director. I loved watching old movies as a kid, my favourites were Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers Films. Film transported me to different worlds and allowed me to be a dancer, a hero, travel to worlds and to be anything and anywhere I wanted to be.

I always thought film was magical.

What is your favourite drink of choice?

A mature and full bodied shiraz or merlot is always one of my favourites. I also love a gin and tonic for a cooler drink.

If I'm not wanting an alcoholic drink I tend to stick to mineral water with fresh lemon to give it more taste. I love drinking water and hate fizzy drinks.

Also, coffee is necessary to have. One cup per day or maybe two depending on the night before.

What is usually your first thought in the morning?

I don't want to get out of bed. I am always trying to get more sleep.

My other thought to go with trying to stay in bed is, "Wouldn't it be nice if someone could take the kids to care and school for me."

If this could happen I could stay in bed longer.

Pity it cannot happen.

After this thought I get up and start the day.

What tips would you give to working mums?

Working with kids is hard. It is. Organising childcare, dropping kids off at school or before school care is a juggle.

My tips to help working mums are:

Make sure that you are organised the night before for the days you need to work.

By being organised I mean have the following all sorted the night before: School lunches, bags packed, clothes organised, phones charged, handbag packed, addresses and times of where you need to be when, understand what time you need to drop kids at care to give you the right amount of travel time to not be stressed.

Wake up with enough time so that you can get dressed and organised before kids get up. I have breakfast, shower and get partially dressed. Put your makeup and do your hair, if you don't do it when you are on your own it will never happen. I don't put my fancy clothes for work on until I have dressed the baby and the kids are all dressed. Once all kids are dressed, I put on my work outfit and then we will soon leave the house.

I drop kids at before school care, then the baby goes to care and then I drive to my work.

Half the battle with working is just making sure that you have plans for kids to be cared for. Once this is organised you can feel more relaxed about your day.

- One major tip is to just breathe, calm down and relax. You will be fine. Your kids will be fine. You will have a good time being in a different environment and using your skills that you did before kids.

Working will allow you to have some time for you. Be not just a mother but a person who is a valued member of the team.

If you are not leaving the house for work the above tips will help if you are working from home. If kids are in care you can be focused on what you are doing.

I have the baby in care two days per week and the twins are also care or in school. I try to focus on big things that I wish to do on those days as this means that the house is quiet, I can concentrate and really get things done.

What has been your most embarrassing 'mum moment'?

When the girls were younger I forgot their swimmers for their swimming lessons. I had the towels, goggles and change of clothes but not the swimmers.

I forgot the most important part. I know others are important too but swimmers are needed to swim in the pool.

Since the lesson was about to start I made the twins swim in their undies for their lesson.

This was rather embarrassing for the kids but I had all the other things, and we were at the pool.

They swam and were very angry afterwards and the next few times I had the girls make sure they packed their swim bag for the pool.

I don't think they trusted me after this incident.

What one piece of advice would you give to a new mum?

You cannot plan for everything. Babies and kids seem to disrupt anything important you have planned or wish to do. I would be as organised as you can be but be okay when things change. Don't stress about the mess in the house, or the things that you have not gotten to. There will be time.

Make sure you get out of the house when you can. This will help you and baby feel good. Sunshine, contact with people and just being somewhere different other than the house is good for new mums.

What is your guilty pleasure?

Watching television, and films. Binge watching Greys Anatomy, Orange is the New Black, and Scandal. I do love drama, sci fi, drama and comedy... yes, the whole lot. It just must be clever and interesting. Sometimes it is just an escape from my current life and sitting doing nothing for a while is fabulous. Even better with a drink as well.

What have you learned from having twins plus one?

After I had my twin girls I thought I could do anything. I just gave birth to two people! I managed to leave the house with two babies on my own and can use the pram. I went shopping with twins and got all the food for the family. I even could not wipe the smile off my face when I succeeded by being at aqua aerobics at the local pool, I got to the pool with two babies, put the babies in care and got to the exercise class. You would have thought that I was a crazy person who would not stop

smiling.

I thought I knew what I was doing before our baby boy was born. I had twins, they were good babies and I did that well. A baby boy should not be difficult.

Geez how wrong was I. I did everything that I did with the twins and it did not work. It took a while for me to realise that he was a different person (<http://mummytotwinsplusone.com/tongue-tie-reflux-or-just-fussy/>) and the things that worked with the girls were not working with him. I had to learn who he is was and what he wanted. I studied him, I noted what he liked and didn't like and then did more of what he was wanting.

Having twins have taught me that I am stronger than I think. Twins do really have their own language, they lost it after they started learning the real words for things. The girls also have a very special connection and are so close.

Having a baby boy with older kids is interesting. I never thought that I would have such a large age gap. The twins and our baby boy have an eight-year gap between them. They have been very motherly and caring for their brother but also sometimes not very nice.

We never found out the sex of our kids when we were pregnant. I thought I was having another girl. I never thought we would ever have a little boy in our family. It is nice to have a boy, his cuddles, cheeky sense of humour and personality is wonderful.

Our family is now complete with our little boy (<http://mummytotwinsplusone.com/birth-of-number-3/>) and it is like he has been here much longer than the year and half that he has been here currently.

The kids have made me less selfish, nicer and try and spend more family time with everyone. It is now harder with three kids.

What is the best part of being a mum?

There are many things that make being a mum a wonderful experience. The best parts for me are: Cuddles, laughter, games, watching them grow up, seeing the kids master a task they have been working on, getting copious amounts of artwork and also having special presents given to me, like flowers and homemade creations.



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