

SOME THINGS I'VE JUGGLED...

- 1993: Became a single parent of 3 (3-9 yrs. old)
 - Full time job -- 2 ½ hr. round-trip commute
 - Kids life
 - Woke up oldest before I left at 5:30
 - They did chores and homework when they came home
 - The older ones began learning to cook... on their own around age 9
- 1996: Baby #4 joined the family

SOME THINGS I'VE JUGGLED (CONTINUED)...

- 1997: Home office with baby at home
 - Harm stayed with me except ~5 hrs/week
 - Actually worked MORE hours than if had office job
- 2001-2003
 - Grandparents every 2 weeks (16 hr roundtrip)
 - Clip toenails
 - Clean ears
 - Wax floors
 - Grocery shop

SOME THINGS I'VE JUGGLED (CONTINUED)...

- 2003: Began unschooling 2 youngest kids
- 2003: Began 6 yrs as a Nontraditional student
 - Working 2-3 part-time jobs
 - Earned BS in 2005—3.98 GPA
 - Earned MSW in 2009—3.88 GPA

SOME THINGS I'VE JUGGLED (CONTINUED)...

- 2008: Nyk moved back in with 3 year old and 6 months pregnant with 2nd child
- 2009: Nyk began working full-time at night
 - I kept 4 yr-old and 3 mo old 5 nights/per week
 - Oatmeal sick 1st 9 months 'til tubes in ears
 - Teething baby
 - Getting kids up and to the daycare

SUMMARY OF MY JUGGLING ACT...

I dealt with:

- Divorce
- Single parenting
- Full time job (with long commute)
- Having a child on my own (4th)
- Adjusting to a home office
- Having children at home constantly (unschoolers)
- Helping care for aging grandparents
- Finding time to attend classes, study, conduct research, & write papers in college (BS 2005) and graduate school (MSW 2009)
- Rearranging house and life for a bounce back child (constantly from 2004-2010)
- Readjusting to life with a toddler and newborn while having my own younger kids at home full-time and being a nontraditional student