

Tell me a few things that you really love about being a mom?

P: I like watchin' my kids ex-experience things and see how they react differently for each experience. It's fun watchin' 'em grow.

F: Uh huh, watchin' 'em grow and the different experiences that they have and go through and you're seeing that.

P: [sighs] Just bein' there for them really, I mean, helping them with their homework even though with my older two it's hard sometimes 'cause I was never good in English or Math and so, or History, with Jessica's case, but otherwise, it's fun. The not so fun parts is the puberty and [both laugh] my teenage daughter sometimes, but –yeah.

P: Um, ...what do I love about it...I don't know, like, I've been a mom for so long that I can't imagine not being one, but, um, I just like taking care of them, um, havin' someone just that loves you unconditionally and that you love unconditionally I guess. Like, I just, I grew up really close to my mom and my kids are really close to me, and. I just – I love spending time with them, and, being involved with their school. I don't know, I just like being in their lives a lot, and I love education and learning and so, y'know I have a lot of, um, opportunities to do that with my kids, so.

F: So it's the unconditional love, it's the closeness that you have, that close bond and doing different educational things.

P: Yeah and having someone that you just would do anything for. Like, I love my husband and everything, but, he's not first and he knew that comin' into this. It's like, I'm – I'm really good to him and I think I'm a good wife and everything, but I'm definitely a mom first. And he knows that, and he's fine with that like he's, he's the same way. Course this is his first child, so, he's just learning, but I mean, he's – he's good. He understands that y'know, if I have time leftover then, which a lot of times I don't y'know, but we're a pretty good team, so.

F: Okay, anything else that you just love about bein' a mom?

P: It's just, y'know, looking down at them, and then going – wow – like I made that person. Y'know? Like sounds silly, but, I mean I have 5 kids and I still, on him, like it doesn't fade at all. And y'know, he is just – oh. Y'know when I had him I was just as emotional as with the first one and it's amazing to see their traits, y'know and like your personality in them and your, y'know your looks in them, it's just – it's kind of an amazing feeling I guess, y'know just knowing that you created that –that person.

F: So it means a lot to you I can see.

P: [laughs] It does. Yeah.

P: Yeah, I – I hear people say, like, “oh y’know, by the time you have your 2nd one or 3rd one,” I’m like, “no.” I mean, it’s – I’m still, I still do all the cute little stuff for him, I still cut his sandwiches in like cat shapes and I still, I’ll spend 20, 30 minutes on makin’ his lunch just right.

P: I love doing like kid stuff like that and y’know, his face he’s like “oahh! [gasps]” y’know when he sees it, and he’s kind of, I wouldn’t say a picky eater, he’s just a very light eater, so I try to make his food really appealing and I just have people going, “I can’t believe you still do that on the 5th one” y’know. It’s like, I know I don’t always – y’know sometimes I’m in a rush and I don’t have time, but y’know it just doesn’t fade. Like I still want to do that stuff for him that I did with my 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th one y’know

P: Oh man, it’s just fun, like my daughter’s 3 now, so it’s fun to just watch her grow up and turn into a person. She’s so opinionated, now we can look back at her pictures from even when she was 18 months old and you can see her personality already there and it’s just – it’s always something. : I just enjoy it, I don’t know. I’ve always been a very nurturing, I’ve always been everybody’s mom so I guess it gives me something to fulfill that part.

P: Just, gosh I don’t know, the just all the snuggles and love and I don’t know just being, like unconditional love I guess that my daughter and I have for each other. And yeah, probably that.

P: I love everything, I just love to uh, watch ‘em grow and learn and um, being able to stay at home with ‘em is a big plus. And I just love being a mom [laughs]. : Um, well I love - I have 2 little girls, and how close they are and every morning like my 4 year old has to go get the baby and hold her and kiss her – oh it’s so cute and I love how close, bonded they are. Um, cuddle time and the loves and just, yeah.

P: Um, I love, it’s awe- I love it cause it’s like awesome, and they keep me busy, and they keep my mind off a lot of stuff, and they’re entertaining and uh – I don’t know I love everything about it so [laughs]

F: And they keep your mind off a lot of stuff?

P: Yeah, like they, there’s times where I’m kinda just stressed from work and stuff and they’re just around me and they make me laugh [laughs] with the things they do now.

P: Oh, oh everything, it’s wonderful. Um, when I- I got pregnant with my first child when I was 20 and I wasn’t expecting it and y’know I was a little scared with that, but it – after I had her I was like “oh my gosh this is the greatest thing ever.” I always, all the jobs I ever had were like, either babysitting or tutoring, or I worked at preschool so I’ve always worked with kids, I always knew I’d be a mom, but it wasn’t until I was actually a mom that I realized, like “oh my gosh” I was totally born to do this

P: It’s wonderful. I don’t know, I think just the greatest thing is just watching them grow and learn and it’s just so, interesting cause I have my daughter, she’s 2 and 8, 2 years and 9 months, and I have 9 month old twin boys, so they’re all at like different stages right now and it’s really, it’s really fun to watch them grow and interact with each other and my daughter finally tells me she loves me and like “mommy I want to snuggle” and it’s just, all the love that comes with it you just never realize, really what love is until you have a kid and then you’re like “oh my gosh, it’s just,” your heart is just like “oh I just love them so much” and there’s just no feeling like it, ever. It’s just, I don’t know, I just love being with my kids and I get to be a stay at home mom so I’m with them all the time and I think just the

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greatest part is just bein' around them and just watchin' them grow up and y'know learn new things and they always surprise me. They're all so smart [laughs].

P: Um, watching them learn, me being the one to encourage the learning steps, um, watching it happen from day to day 'cause everything changes so quickly. Um, I love bein' the sole one who sees all of it. First crawl and all of that. Um hm, it's too when they're hurt, that's like one of the biggest, I think, things for me. Is that they know that I'm gonna be there no matter what.

P: They're just great kids, I don't know. It's just enjoyable, like but as far as y'know when they're laughing and stuff it just makes you so happy to know that y'know, that you're the one who makes them happy, y'know? And bein' a single mom it's like, even more enjoyable 'cause I'm like – they count on me for everything.

P: Well, I never thought that I would have kids, and after I had my first one, I knew that I wanted to have more. Kids are priceless, there's, y'know there's just you can't even say how many times a day your child makes you smile, because of something, y'know. I enjoy it, I enjoy the love that they give back to you, y'know it's kinda the unconditional, like a pet almost [laughs] y'know your kids seem to love you. They get mad at you but they seem to love you no matter what. Teaching them, bein' able to teach the values that I was brought up with. Passing that on to my kids, that makes me feel good. And I think, I think that they are pretty good kids [laughs].

P: Oh watchin' 'em grow and learn and, yeah it's one of the best things is the fact that it's just the unconditional love no matter what. And it's like, doesn't matter what's goin' on, it's like, hey mom, I love you, you're wonderful today! You're wonderful every day!

P: Yes, watching 'em learn. Um, and experience new things every day. Just to see that's my favorite thing. Cause they see stuff so different than we see it. Y'know like we just were driving by just the fairgrounds over there and I don't know exactly what they're doing but my baby was saying "Mommy the farm, farmer in the dell? Farm! Is dell!" And so it's just stuff like that y'know, I'm just looking at it like a pile of wood a couple of tractors, and he thinks its farmer in the dell.

P: How eager they are to learn new things and to explore. Mine are extremely adventurous. So they like to jump from the highest point that they are allowed to or stretch it even farther and try to get even higher, and they, just a joy to watch them mature and become little people [laughs]

P: Um, everything. I think it's very self-rewarding, um, I think as for myself, I just kind of have one of those nurturing personalities that I just want to take care of everybody so [laughs] having kids um, is, I think it just kinda came naturally to me, um, their smile every time they smile or watching them learn something new or asking you for your help, or knowing that they rely on your love, it's just really rewarding in itself.

P: I don't feel lonely [laughs]

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P: Yeah, I guess just having um, people that love you and depend on you and care about you more than anything. Just seeing their smiles and taking care of them and yeah, y'know just the joy that they bring to me.

P: Um...I like I like um, watching my kids grow and watching them get to experience um everything in life and watch their faces and um, I just, I love, I love hangin' out with 'em and I love how much fun they are and I like, um, being able to teach them my upbringings and um, give them a good start.

P: Sharing life with my children. Just the joys and going to the park and playing and, y'know just life. I like life, I'm a happy person. I love watching my children learn and grow and the cute and funny things they say [baby coughs] oh goodness. They are so funny. Just, I don't know really how to explain it, being responsible for somebody else I suppose too. Um, kind of keeps me grounded. Before I wasn't exactly the most grounded person.

P: Um, it's just the love that both kids give. Like, my son's 2 but he just...like y'know he can get in trouble for something, but seconds later he just wants to snuggle you. Like it doesn't matter who you are, you can mess up in any way and get angry or whatever and he still just – oh I love you – y'know there's no forgetting it and hurt, it's just like, she's like, you're all I have mom. She doesn't realize anything else, like she just wants that affection and just the love and that's what always makes me love being a mom, I guess, for me.

P: Um the love that they give back. Just having them around, they're always so positive and pure and innocent, so it's refreshing.

P: Um, I really love seeing my son grow and develop and kind of, um, all the new things that he learns and watching him discover that and, um, just knowing that I'm fully loved and y'know unconditionally, yeah. It's, it's been great, yeah. I mean, there's ups and downs, but yeah those are definitely the fun parts, yes, just seeing his development and each stage of his development and y'know, each day how amazing, how amazing he is and [laughs].

Um...I like uh, I like quite a bit of things, um, like watching him, I like having him part of me, and y'know kind of an extension of me, and being able to, um, like our cuddle time together that we have in the morning and um, just how much he enjoys his time with me.

P: I come from a family that is very big and Catholic. My grandmother, um, her first baby when she was 13, she had her last baby when she was 75. So her total pregnancies that she had was 36 times she was pregnant, and she had 29 children. Now, a lot of them did pass away during the depression, but I have a total of 14 aunts and uncles and I have cousins that I grew up with, there is 3 generations, there's 16 of us in my generation, the first group, the second group has 12 and then the third group has 9. And so it's kinda like just normal for me, y'know? And I don't think I would be happy not being a mom. And having all that because when I'm alone, I don't like it, y'know? It kinda makes me feel, kinda depressed, y'know a little bit, y'know? And y'know if you don't have, and and being Catholic, y'know if you read anything in the Bible, a womans to her sin, and to cover her sin is to have children, and then her sin is covered, y'know? I don't know if anybody believes in the Bible, but that's my belief. And so I'm covered!

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