



Wife, mother, trusted and beloved realtor, and Weston resident Rose Sklar shares her advice on how to balance being a boss babe and a mom.

Rose's motherly advice TO FELLOW MOMS

What are books you've read that could pertain to any mom (so not specific to food allergies) that have helped you in raising your kids?

Well, of course the *What to Expect When You're Expecting* series was with me at all times. I also loved reading both of my children the Dr. Seuss series. Teaching through fun and rhymes, kindness, lessons to learn, finding your success within. One of my favorites [is] *Oh, the Places You'll Go*.

Being a mom and a boss babe is exhausting, how do you treat/indulge yourself so that you continue to have balance in your life?

We love to retreat to the beach with a great book and my iPod. I finally realized that self-care is a must to keep up with my quick pace. I enjoy hanging out with friends and family, eating great food of course, and travel whenever the opportunity arises. Tomorrow is not promised.

You've shared that your daughter was not a fan of you working because she wanted more time with you. How did you manage that situation?

It was a process, as is most of parenting. As a mom, I taught my daughter (and son) to be independent. Eventually, the children said they were proud of their working mom. I hope I provided a positive role model, taught them problem solving and continue to be their mentor long into adulthood. Being a working mother is the hardest thing I ever did, but I wouldn't trade it for anything.

What do you recall your mom saying to you as a kid, that you now find yourself telling your children?

Everything my mom said to me as a kid was right and I share her wisdom with my kids everyday. My mom's favorite quote—"bloom where you are planted" has been my mantra since I was a young adult. She

always told me to make the best of where I was in life, dig in deep, nurture my life and a bloom will emerge.

You are not just a boss babe and a mom, you are also a wife...what do you do that is special for Dean to keep the spark alive?

Dean is my best friend and we make sure to spend plenty of "just us" time. Whether it be relaxing on the beach, riding our bikes or fulfilling our bucket list. Just last week we went on our first helicopter ride into the Grand Canyon and are planning a trip to Ireland this summer.

What would you have done differently as a mom had you known better, that you can now advise other moms on?

I wish I was not so much of a helicopter mom. I wish I had given my children more responsibility early on. Giving your kids everything you did not have is not the answer. Let them earn it. Focus more on how they feel about themselves, ask questions, use your words wisely. Breathe and count to 10 before you react. Think before you speak. Is it true, is it kind, is it necessary. And most importantly, savor the moments, they are gone so fast.

How different is it to raise a boy as opposed to a girl and what advice you can share on that topic?

Not to stereotype, but my son was much more of a handful early on physically. My daughter started off quiet and shy and became more challenging beginning in the preteen years. The most important [thing] to keep in mind, is how they perceive themselves. Body image and self-esteem are critical throughout the life of a child.

Some last minute thoughts you don't want to end this interview without including?

My advice to all parents, try and be in the moment. Get off your electronic devices and be there physically and mentally with no distractions. Make special time for each of your children separately. When and if they want/need to talk, find the time. You are the shapers of your children's values and belief system. It is the most important job in the world. Family is your most precious gift. Put your arms around each other and *be there*.