

Being “Super Mom” without losing your sanity can be a reality. My friends often ask how I manage my wild family, full-time job, my children’s book and all my side activities while still managing time to replenish myself.

It’s all about organization. I often hear women joke about how they are Domestic Engineers. If only they realized how true that is. However, a few more titles should be added: CFO, Human Resources, Nurse, Spiritual Leader, Counselor, Event Coordinator, Nutritional Planner and so on.

A successful household is run like a business, per se.

- There is an organization chart of the members with the parent as the President of the organization and the children need to be taught to respect the hierarchy. My house is a parent-run house; not a child run household.
- There should be a budget. If you don’t know how to put one together, I highly recommend Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University.
- There should be a set of standards and expectations for each child’s “job duties” and behavior with a clear understanding of both the rewards for exceeding expectations and for the ramifications of not meeting the expectations.
- Scheduling is one the most important parts of running a smooth operating household.
 - Aside from having my color-coded calendar of the family’s activities, my children have their personalized schedules. For example, my 12-year-old daughters can look on the refrigerator and know what days they have tutoring, choir, vocal lessons... Our 16-year-old can look to be reminded that the trash needs to be pulled to the curb on Mondays and Thursdays.
 - Repeating Activities: My children know that laundry days are Mondays and Thursdays and if they don’t bring their laundry down on those days, they’re required to do it themselves.
 - Meal Planning. This is important for many reasons. Not only does it help not waste food and money, but it saves money because I am more focused when grocery shopping. I make the meal plan out for each day of the week and often times will make a majority of it on Sunday (the meat). It also prevents us from eating unhealthy options because we need a quick meal. I also will use the same main ingredient in several meals, but will change up the meal enough so that it doesn’t seem like leftovers. For example, I may make turkey burgers one night and then crumble up the rest of the meat and use it for spaghetti the next night.

It will take a little extra effort in the beginning as you establish your household like a business, but the routine will quickly become second nature. The children will have the non-chaotic, non-cluttered environment they crave, you will feel accomplished and less stressed in carrying out your successful juggling act and will set your children up with the tools they need to “carry on the family business.”