

Kids Keep Celebrity Mom Down to Earth

Award-winning television journalist Alisyn Camerota always questioned the idea that she would have to have children in order to feel truly fulfilled.

After all, as a national correspondent at FOX News Channel, Alisyn had covered some of the nation's most sensational breaking news stories, including the crash of JFK Jr's plane and the launch of the Iraq War. She was live on the air when the Space Shuttle Columbia exploded, and reported from Ground Zero following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. She has interviewed major political, entertainment and sports figures. And of the television program *America's Most Wanted*, she says, "I would put together a story and air it, and that night we'd catch the fugitive who'd been on the run for 20 years." Fulfilling, indeed.

But as a mother, she now experiences "a deep, inexplicable level of contentment that I hadn't had before."

Her firstborn were twins, and she wasn't prepared when they came nine weeks early.

"I didn't have cribs ready, the room painted, any of the necessities," she recalls. "But my friends fixed up the room while I was in the hospital."

Always ready to laugh at herself, Alisyn is quick to point out that she's not supermom; one person can't do it all. In New York City, she says, there are wonderful twin support groups and email networks, and she found a website offering valuable advice. There's child care for the weekdays, and on weekends her husband, Tim, "rolls up his sleeves, cooks breakfast, and does the entire morning routine till I come back at noon. I don't know how single parents do it."

"The only time my kids have thought my job was cool was when I got to interview Miss Piggy and when The Wiggles played live on our show."

Her parenting challenges began before the usual sleep-deprivation woes, however. Once she and Tim decided to start a family, they ran into a major problem: infertility. Even now, three children later, Alisyn can still remember the pain from that time. "As anyone who has experienced it can tell you, the deep desire to have children and to believe it won't ever happen is a daily trauma."

The ordeal inspired her to get involved with RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association, and she now leads peer-support groups to help other families who face this challenge.

As to balancing career and family, Alison says she's fortunate to work for the FOX News Channel, which she considers a very family-friendly place. "Before, I might be at a family function and my beeper would go off—and I'd have to get on a plane and fly to another country," she says. "It was a big challenge. Now, I've reached the level in my career where I never get grief if there's a pressing family situation. Which is great, because journalism often makes you choose."



She's also delighted that she now works "only" 40 hours a week at FOX, because her first job, with Ted Koppel, saw her putting in 100-hour weeks.

When she's not on the air at FOX or being wife and mom, Alisyn finds time to write entries in her blog, *Alisyn in the Green Room*, which gets about 3500 hits a day.

Alisyn was surprised and delighted to receive the MCA Celebrity Mom of the Year award.


"I see it as a huge accomplishment," she says, "as much as any of the journalism awards. It's an honor to be recognized for parenting, because so much of our work is toiling in obscurity."



Alisyn Camerota

Of course, there's little opportunity to feel like a celebrity at home. "The only time my kids have thought my job was cool," she notes, "was when I got to interview Miss Piggy and when The Wiggles played live on our show."

When asked what's next for her, Alisyn says that for the first time in her life, it's not all planned out; she's not striving and climbing. "I'm feeling content right where I am."

She still doesn't believe that children are necessary for everyone's fulfillment. But she's so glad they're a part of her life. 

Alisyn Camerota is an award-winning journalist and TV anchor who regularly hosts *FOX & Friends Weekend*, a lively current events show.

As a member of the *Koppel Reports*, she helped produce documentaries that received two Emmys and an Edward R. Murrow award. As a crime reporter on *America's Most Wanted*, Alisyn was responsible for jailhouse interviews with murderers, serial rapists and child molesters. For her reporting, which led to the capture of dozens of fugitives, she received honors and awards from the FBI, U.S. Marshals and state police agencies. She was known as the correspondent to extract the most surrenders and confessions from criminals.

She has appeared on numerous talk shows, including *The O'Reilly Factor* and *On The Record with Greta van Susteren*, and has been featured in many newspapers and magazines.

Alisyn lives in New York City with her husband, Tim Lewis, and their three young children.