

## Life in quarantine

Let me start off by saying my “work routine” has been chaotic and difficult. I have a toddler who is slowly entering his terrible twos and every day brings me a new challenge. I assumed that working from home during this time would be easy considering I am in the comfort of my own home. I have my good and bad days and I must make the most of the quiet time I have in order to get my hours in. I do face challenges as a single mother as I work in the environment that I parent and discipline in, but I have to come up with plans to overcome these obstacles.

My ideal routine would look like the following: I wake up and settle down with my computer and supplies. I dive into work and go for at least 4 hours straight to get started. Lastly, I would like to take a 30-minute break in between to the focus my attention on my toddler. I would like to do this at least every Monday through Friday so that I am on a set schedule. This would be the best scenario for me to avoid procrastination. Unfortunately, this is not the case and my work hours can sometimes become scattered throughout my day. My work schedule revolves around my toddler and his needs to make this work. As a single mom, I pride myself in prioritizing my child at home.

My daily struggles involve making sure my toddler is taken care of before I work as well as potty train him in between. I work while my toddler naps or when someone can take over when I am not able to. It is a lot of sleepless nights as well as stressful days. Of course, just like any human being my toddler has his moments where I put a pause on work, and I go straight into “mom mode”.

Working during quarantine has been different and a challenge. I must depend on myself and learn how to manage my time as well as my priorities. In my house, we always left work at the door and in these moments, we must bring it into our homes. While I am grateful that we get to keep our jobs in these times, it has taken some time and practice to adjust. From constantly running after my toddler to sitting down to work I find that these two roles are not always as easy to manage. On my lucky days, my toddler will get to nap, and I can breathe in the silence of my home to work and be productive.

This is a glimpse in honesty of the struggles I have gone through this quarantine. It is new and sudden to most of us I am sure. My gratitude for being able to keep my job keeps me going but every day I have to learn how to overcome a different challenge or obstacle as I bring my job into the household that I parent in as a single mother.

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