



STEFFI & NICO

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ABOUT

Modern working parents with 2 children,
equally sharing parental responsibilities
valuing time with the family over high salary
and material things



WHAT THEY DID

When their first son was born, Steffi and Nico decided to divide caring for him 50/50. They both reduced their work week to 4 days a week.

After a while they decided to both take same day off to spend 3-day weekends together as a family. That required the investment in good day care for the kids for 4 days a week. They stuck to that rhythm when their second child was born 4 years later, but slightly reduced the amount of working hours per day for the time being.



HOW THEY DID IT

When deciding to trade chunk of their salary into child care and to reduce the daily working hours, frugal living and living with less came in handy:

- Living in the city center, they decided they did not need a car, which saved a lot.
- They chose for a modest 80sqm apartment and made use of their creativity rather than money to create a cosy interior.
- They choose for simple vacations like roadtrips with borrowed or rented cars to neighbouring countries and affordable city trips.

This way they make sure on the one hand to always have financial buffers, and on the other hand to have less things to worry about.

They actively avoid falling back into gender roles dictated by society. Both parents are responsible for the income, household tasks and for taking care for sick kids.

In their work Steffi and Nico chose for specialist instead of a management or team leader roles as they tend to be less stressful and are therefore easier to combine with family life. ■

For the same reason they would always choose for good working conditions and a nice atmosphere over a high salary.



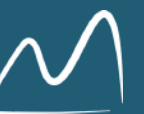


WHAT THEY REALIZED

Most couples attempting to divide tasks and childcare 50/50 end up with a man working more a woman caring more for the kids. Or even working the same amount of hours and a woman still does more things around the house. The excuses vary from 'He does not feel comfortable being alone with the kids' to 'He earns more money'.

If you want to live gender equality in your family, invest into good childcare and do not lean on patchwork solutions. That provides the necessary structure and peace of mind to rock daily life.

As a women, do not give into the feeling that picking up a sick child from day care or working less hours will rather be accepted by your work environment than by your partner's. It's a matter of just doing it with self confidence and finding out that in most cases it does not create the resistance you were expecting. ■





ADVICE TO TRAILBLAZERS

Reduce expenses and lifestyle complexity, especially running costs and the amount of high maintenance objects. Build up larger financial buffers. That gives you lots freedom and resilience.

