

[We Are Family](#) Season 2, Episode 19: Snooki

Snooki:

Hi, my name is Nicole Snooki, and family is literally my entire world. My family is my entire world.

Julia Dennison:

Hello and welcome to *We Are Family*. I'm your host, Julia Dennison. And I am here with Nicole Polizzi, who you'll know of course, as Snooki the star of *Jersey Shore*, as well as *Snooki & JWoww* and *Jersey Shore: Family Vacation*. She's also the co-host of the podcast *It's Happening with Snooki and Joey*. And she's mama to three kids, Giovanna, Lorenzo, and Angelo. And she's now launching a wine brand called Messy Mawma. Nicole, thank you for coming on. Welcome to *We Are Family*.

Snooki:

Yes. Thank you for having me.

Julia:

So you are a mom of three. I'm a mom too, but only of one. My friends with three kids. I look at them in awe, but you're also an entrepreneur and a wife. And you have so much going on with the new wine brands. Are you just totally exhausted, or how are you making it happen? I want to know.

Snooki:

Well, I mean, the wine definitely helps to keep me sane and not stressed out. But yeah, three kids, Lorenzo is 9, Giovanna is 6, and Angelo is 2. So it's definitely a chaotic house. There's a lot going on.

Julia:

And I love that you're launching a wine brand. What was your idea behind that? I mean, besides the fact that we all need wine to be able to cope with motherhood.

Snooki:

Yeah. I'm like a wine connoisseur, and I'm obsessed with wine. I've been wanting to have my own wine for like three years now and just trying to find like the right company to collab with, because I wanted to work with someone that actually has a vineyard. So I'm working with Summerland Wines. They have a beautiful vineyard in California. But before I found them, I just wanted to find somebody that actually made really good, decent wines, because I didn't want to half-ass it. I wanted something to be delicious and good and beautiful. I found Summerland. And during quarantine, we were actually figuring out what we were going to do, how we were going to do this. And it was a quick turnaround, and I'm so excited. Literally, the wine is delicious. And I'm not just saying it because it's mine, but I know wine. And I literally picked the two best wines, and I'm just really excited for everyone to try it.

Julia:

Can you tell everybody the name of those wines?

Snooki:

Yeah. So my full wine brand is called Messy Mawma. The Y is crooked and it kind of goes with my show "Messiness", because I host "Messiness" now, like drunk people falling around and it's fun. So I call this Messy Mawma. So we have Tantrum Chardonnay and Chaos Cabernet. Tantrum is-

Julia:

I'm obsessed.

Snooki:

... definitely towards my moms, because your kids have tantrums, but I feel like we're allowed to have tantrums. So you can have that when you're having a really shitty day or you just want to be dramatic and enjoy Tantrum. And then Chaos Cabernet is literally like for all my mamas, if you're having like a chaotic day, and you just come home from work and you just want to relax with a glass of wine or you want to turn up and be chaotic, you could do that as well.

Julia:

Oh my God. That is so relatable. I love that so much. So let's talk a little bit about that. The balance that moms have often with their work and their family life and trying to make it all work. But do you have any kind of non-negotiables when it comes to your work and your kids, how do you kind of set those boundaries between work time, entrepreneur time, it's time for yourself? Because we don't do that enough as moms and then time for your kids.

Snooki:

I mean, I don't really have a set schedule, but I feel like I just go with the flow throughout the day. So like when the kids are at school and then my babysitter comes to watch my two year old, that's when I kind of like run my errands and get stuff done for my store, or my brands, or filming and stuff like that. And the kids get home from school, that's like full mommy mode until bedtime. And then once they go to sleep, then that's my time to actually have my wine, watch the Netflix. And yeah, that's like a, literally a full day from like 6:00 AM till as late as I can stay up, which is like 11. So yeah.

Julia:

Yeah. I know. It's like, but then I always have that thing where it's like, I end up staying up way too late because I don't want to go to bed because I don't want to let go of that time to myself. So it's always that tricky, tricky balance.

Snooki:

Yeah.

Julia:

But I wanted to ask you because I read that one of the decisions you had to leave *Jersey Shore: Family Vacation*, it was because you wanted to spend more time with your kids. Was that right? Is that, was that part of the decision and was that a really hard decision to make?

Snooki:

It was definitely part of it. Most of it was my mental health because the whole drama with Angelina was a lot and I was like "I'm too old for this shit. Like I don't like drama anymore, and I need to just be a mom,

I need to focus on being a mom" because that actually affected me as a mom. I was upset and my patience was not... I had no patience and I was, I just feel like it was affecting me being a good mom. So I was like "I just need to take a full mental break," and I loved it. Thank God I did it cause I really needed it. Just like being home, not worrying about filming and the stress of all the drama and all that stuff. And just being a mom and being like so boring, I just loved it and I needed it.

Julia:

How does Snooki onscreen compare to Nicole at home? Are you the same person or do you feel like you, do you have to feel to play a little bit of that character?

Snooki:

Yeah, I don't feel like I play it. It just that's me when I'm not with my kids. So when I'm not with my kids, just like any mom, if you go on vacation with your best friends and you don't have your kids for two days, you're going to enjoy yourself, have your drinks, go dancing, and just kind of just be you with your friends, just enjoy yourself. But once I'm home, I'm in mom mode, I'm literally cooking, cleaning, doing all the mom things. So that's like full blown Nicole.

Julia:

And so have your kids watched *Jersey Shore* at all?

Snooki:

No. I mean, they do know that I do TV shows so they know like I film and do all of that, but I'm an actress. I told them I'm an actress. So that's what they think right now. But you know, eventually once they get older, they're going to be like, okay, you're not an actress. That's just you being crazy. But we have time for that. We have time for that talk.

Julia:

Yeah. So did you always want a big family?

Snooki:

Yes, because I was adopted and then I was the only child, so I always like told my parents, "Can you go to the store and buy another kid?" So I always envisioned myself to have a big family and I feel like three kids is a big family.

Julia:

At what age were you aware that you were adopted and how did your parents kind of broach that subject with you?

Snooki:

They never really told me. I just knew because I was brown and they were white. So I was like, "This doesn't make sense. I don't even look like you." So I just feel like I always knew, but I didn't care. It didn't affect me. Well, I always wondered what they looked like, but I never had the urge to go and find my birth parents just because I was so secure with my parents but they didn't tell me and like sit me down. I already knew.

Julia:

Is meeting your birth family something that you'd ever want to do in the future?

Snooki:

Probably not. I mean, if anything, I want to see like a picture to see what they look like.

Julia:

Yeah.

Snooki:

But yeah, no, I'm OK.

Julia:

I feel like with the wine mom is something that's always like a trope all over Instagram. And sometimes I feel like it gets a little bit of flack. Do you think that that sort of like stereotype of the wine mom is fair? What do you think about it?

Snooki:

I think it's amazing, obviously, because I'm a mommy wine drinker and I just feel like not even to try and be funny, but it really is mom juice. It really helps you get through the day sometimes because motherhood is a bitch. It's crazy; parenting in general, not just motherhood, fatherhood, just being a parent is a lot. And it can really just do a toll on you sometimes. And you're allowed to let loose with a glass of wine, and I feel like for me, if I have a bad day with the kids or it's just stressful and it's a lot, when I have that glass of wine, I'm like... I feel like I got through the day. I'm like "Okay, we did this and now I feel like a little good. So let me go and do something fun with the kids." Because if I didn't drink the wine, I'd probably fall asleep. Do you know what I mean? So it just like helps me be a better mom sometimes.

Julia:

And what is, what's your mom squad like? How do you find those mom friends? Cause I feel like it's so important. I have got that text group that I'm just constantly texting anything that happens with my daughter, with my mom friends. Is that something that you have, too?

Snooki:

I try not to make mom friends because it's just hard. If I'm meeting a mom and she brings up wine in the first like five minutes, we're good. But like if she hasn't... "Yeah, my kid has ballet and then I have a PTA meeting" and I'm just like "Oh my God." Because I'm just not that mom, I would love to be. No hate, no mom shaming on that. But it's just I could never do that. It's just-

Julia:

Totally.

Snooki:

It's a lot. So I really love the hot mess moms that don't have their shit together, but they still make it happen.

Julia:

Yes. You're speaking my language. I'm a single mom, so I co-parent, and I have my daughter half the time. So I have half the time to kind of go out and be in New York city and be not a mom. And I always say that I feel like that time away from your kid makes me a better mom. It kind of recharges me. And I'm sure you probably agree because like I have a lot of friends who feel guilty about going on vacation without their kids, for example, but I'm like, "That's important. That's recharging your mom battery."

Snooki:

Totally. Yep. Agreed. And I feel like when we do filming sometimes and I go for like those two days, that's our time, like me, Jenny and Dina to just let loose a little bit and not worry about "Where's my kid, what is he doing? Change diapers." Like, no, you're just like chilling.

Julia:

So when you have three kids, again, that sort of juggle of the three kids, do you spend time with each of them individually or do you try to make a conscious effort to do that?

Snooki:

So that's the hard part, I think with like having more than one kid in general, is just trying to figure out times and making sure that you're spending a good amount of time with each kid and not just all together. Because I feel like that's important for every kid. So Giovanna, I probably spend the most time with because I co-sleep and I co-sleep with her. And then my husband sleeps with my son and the baby just sleeps in the crib. So I'm with my daughter a lot from sleeping, and then also I take her to practice. So I take her to cheer and then my son Lorenzo does soccer. I try and go there too, but it's like the same time as Giovanna's practice and then they're in school and all of that. So it's hard to figure out when I'm going to spend time with each kid. So it's usually in a group, but I try my hardest. I try my best to do it all. But it's hard. It's hard.

Julia:

Oh, I mean having one kid, it's hard... Three I'm always in awe. So we talk a lot out on this podcast about parent personalities. So like the kind of mom or dad that you turn out to be might not be always the kind of mom or dad that you thought you might be before you were a mom or dad. What do you think your parent personalities like and is your parenting style different to your husbands?

Snooki:

I'm definitely a silly mom. I do get mad. I'm not a strict mom, but I like things a certain way and if they don't do it, then I'm like "Come on." But for the most part, I feel like I try and be a fun, cool mom. And my husband, I would say the same. He's always wrestling with the kids and they're always cracking up with him, having a good time. But we have our moments where we're like "Cut the shit. It's time to stop." But I think overall I would say we're fun parents.

Julia:

So what are some of the fun things you do as a family? Do you have any kind of traditions that you like to stick to?

Snooki:

Well, we are Disney members, so we go to Disney every single year and that's like our one thing that we always talk about just to get the kids excited, like if they're having a bad day. "Four more months till Disney. Let's get it together." So it's always something that we talk about year round. -we've been doing that since even before I had kids. So we've been doing it for almost 11 years now. So, that's like our big tradition that we love to do.

Julia:

And do you bring the grandparents and everything?

Snooki:

Yeah. We bring the grandparents, we bring the cousins. It's like a big full on trip and it's just the best time. I love Disney.

Julia:

So thinking about your childhood versus how you're raising your kids, does it feel very different? Is it... Do you find yourself kind of becoming your mom sometimes?

Snooki:

Definitely when I'm yelling. I always used to make fun of my mom because when she yelled at me her eyes would get really big and like pop out. And I do that now. And I'm like "Ew", because I made fun of her and I was like "You look crazy." And now my daughter says "Why are your eyes like that? You look crazy." So it's literally smacking me in the face. So yeah.

Julia:

I love the chaos in the background.

Snooki:

Oh my God.

Julia:

They're understanding the assignment over there. I can hear it.

Julia:

So what are your parents like as grandparents?

Snooki:

They are obsessed. They actually- can we not play the piano right now?- They...

Julia:

This is perfect.

Snooki:

Yeah. They're obsessed with being grandparents. And I feel like they love my kids more than me and I get upset sometimes. Cause I'm like "I'm still your daughter." Like for Christmas or Halloween, they'll bring the kids these crazy gifts and so cool, and I'm like "What about me?" And they're like "You don't get anything." I'm like "I'm still your kid though. Just because I'm 33 doesn't mean I don't deserve a gift. I'm still your kid."

Julia:

I feel you. My parents used... got me an Easter basket up until I had my daughter at what? 33. And... then they stopped because then they started getting my daughter Easter baskets-

Snooki:

Yeah.

Julia:

And I was like "Wait a second, hold up."

Snooki:

Yeah. Exactly.

Julia:

That can sometimes be an interesting transition to see your parents kind of become grandparents and step away from you a little bit. Do you live really close by to your parents or what's the setup?

Snooki:

No. So I ended up moving to Jersey, so my parents still live in New York, but it's only like an hour and a half away, but my husband's parents are like five minutes down the road, so that's nice.

Julia:

Oh, that's good.

Julia:

So with everything going on, you've got your wine business, kids, TV, what's next for you?

Snooki:

I mean, I always have goals that I want to do. I'm actually trying to find new stores. So I have my two Snooki shops in Jersey and New York. So I'm trying to find other places to go. So that's what I've been working on a lot lately, when I'm home is just trying to find spaces to branch out and do more stores.

Snooki:

So the sky's the limit with me. I always want to do everything.

Julia:

And do you bring your kids with you to work?

Snooki:

My daughter loves going to the store. She pretends she works there. She's like "Hi, can I help you?" And she's behind the register, pretending to scan people and check people out. And I'm like "Oh my God." But maybe she'll take over one day.

Julia:

I love that. And so if they grew up and said "Hey mom, I want to be on a show called "Jersey Shore.", what would you tell your kids?

Snooki:

I always say that I want them to be better than mommy and not do reality TV because you're better than that, and you're going to be a veterinarian and a doctor and a lawyer. But I mean, if they wanted to do reality, of course I'm going to support them no matter what they want, but I strive for better things.

Julia:

Okay. And so what are your kind of big hopes for your family for the future?

Snooki:

I mean, obviously I always want my kids to just be happy. I want them to be humble and good kids and have manners and just be a really good person. But I also just want them to enjoy life and be spontaneous and have fun. So as just a unit, as a family, I just hope we're always a happy unit.

Julia:

That's great. Okay. Thank you so much, Snooki.

Snooki:

Of course.

Julia:

Nicole. This has been so great. Thanks for coming on *We Are Family*.

Snooki:

Yes, thank you.

Julia: Thanks so much for listening to my conversation with Snooki.

Next time you'll hear from singer, actress, and star of *Glee*, Lea Michele, who talks so honestly about the huge challenges she faced in becoming a mom to her son Ever.

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We Are Family is presented by me, Julia Dennison, and produced by Sam Walker. Editing is by Vincent Cacchione, and thanks also to the rest of our production team at Pod People, Rachel King, Matt Sav, and Danielle Roth. We'll see you back here next week for more *We Are Family*!