

25 OCT 2019

VFN Professionals Meeting

Biggest surprise? Expectations met?

Miglena: Difficult to set (work) boundaries, turn off working brain, now turn off work phone to avoid calls at 3 a.m., be present

Fiona: had realistic expectations as parents were self-employed, can set own timeline and deadlines

TIP Manage clients' expectations → communicate openly

How to work with children present? F: Give 30 sec/5 min to

really acknowledge child, be present and engage then cont.

M: Do work after breakfast while child plays (5 y.o.)

F: Mondays - off work w/ husband, Tuesday - DUBU DAY

M: Do not answer calls on Mondays, no emails, no work discussions

What makes you continue despite work load?

M: Love the social impact made, people helped, agreed w/ partners to continue if profitable/break even (no debt)

F: This is the start → many more plans to come! Continue to share the Montessori philosophy & theory.

How old are your children? F: 8 y.o., 1.5 y.o. M: 5 y.o., 10 mon

Kids are part of society (F). Kids come with to meetings (F+M)

What have you learned so far that you don't want to forget?

F: haven't learned it yet - still to come ...

M: It feels like a game, but there are still bills! Spouse is 110% supportive, has income, predictable schedule

Encouraging words / advice? M: Being employed is easier, but independent is more fun! Start small, let idea grow. Believe that you can. If you don't succeed, get a job!

F: Has more control of environment now. Talk to everyone, be brave! (2)

VFN Professionals Meetings

25-OCT-2019

Panelists: Miglena Hofer, lawyer, mother, entrepreneur, Collaboratory
Fiona Wood, Owner of Dugu, mother, Montessori, UK

"Working Outside The Box"

Next meeting, Nov 6th @ The Collaboratory

Miglena's businesses: Free ^{legal} advice for non-Austrians -
Austrian for Beginners + space for
skilled professionals to work, connect,
hold meetings, plus childcare 2x/week

Fiona's business: Montessori inspired space for
families to relax, play, take classes
connected to the outside world (art, ^{pre-}post
birth, yoga, events - birthday parties, baby
showers, etc.),

Why this + Why now? Fiona: always a dream, space available,
keep daughter close as long as
possible after maternity leave

Miglena: never "wanted" to be self-employed, but "found" the
need and demand - non-profit founded A+B. The Coll.
established to meet further demand and create a space.

Great joy? Miglena: ① Able to control and make own choices
based on own values and decisions
② Bringing daughter to work every day

Fiona: Montessori philosophy - introduced + presented

Big challenge? Fiona: The parents who "don't" get it, time management
Miglena: Heavy responsibility, lack of security, work-life balance