

by Vivien Santana Hughes

LET'S DO LUNCH

Celebrity moms opt for separation anxiety to save their sanity



Ever had a day when your kids thought “whine” was the primary language spoken at home, the toilet overflowed after your toddler flushed your bra and the cat threw up on the new rug? Surely motherhood allows you to fill in the blanks with your own equally aggravating anecdotes.

But don't think coping is any easier for celebrity moms. “The worst thing is to be in the kitchen on the phone with my career and have the kids screaming for me in the background,” says Mimi Kennedy (*Homefront*), mother of Cisco, 9, and Molly, 6. She took time off when her children were little and now prefers to take career and family one at a time as much as possible, thank you. *Homefront* co-star Wendy Phillips found one way to blend the two: After the birth of daughter Virginia Dare, now 8, she couldn't get an acting job—then a friendship that started in a prenatal exercise class helped her land a starring role in the critically acclaimed series *A Year in the Life*. Says Phillips, “My playgroup saved my career.” Theresa Saldana (*The Commish*) had doubts about the transition to motherhood when she was pregnant with daughter Tianna, 2. Now she “enjoys the dynamic of juggling work with being a mother because it doesn't let me focus on perfection on either side.” Ada Maris (*Nurses*) finds that the addition of son Alejandro, 2, has deepened her relationship with her husband, but she still recharges by spending a little time by herself. “Sometimes I tell the nanny that I have to run errands—and then I just sit in a coffee shop and stare into space.”

How do you retain your sanity? Our solution: Hire a babysitter, call a friend, get dressed up and go to lunch.

Photo above and lower right: Fashion by Ann Taylor. For nearest location, call (800) 825-6250. Photo above right: (Clockwise from left), Mimi sports a wine-colored rayon CDC jumpsuit (\$92) with palazzo pant and tie front. Ada stays cool in a Carol Anderson floral-print wide-leg jumpsuit of 100 percent rayon (\$108). Wendy's ivory dress by American Knitworks (\$88) is a cotton/cashmere blend with matching cardigan, accented with a large pearl bracelet, gold and pearl half-hoop earrings, and sunglasses. Clothing and accessories from Nordstrom.



Photography: Jerry Levine
Models: Mimi Kennedy, Ada Maris, Wendy Phillips and Theresa Saldana
Coordinator: JoAnne Hirsch
Makeup and hair: Jamie Smith-Gillespie
Stylist: Remi Groff
Location: California Pizza Kitchen, Pasadena (10 restaurants in Los Angeles County)
Fashions: Ann Taylor, Nordstrom