

Shownotes
Episode 5: It takes a Village

Date to be released: September 30th 2022

Summary of Episode:

Beth and Lily are 18 year old twins of Amanda, a mom with an intellectual disability. They talk about being raised within a community of support and about how the decisions we take 'for' the children often have repercussions that we don't consider.

Notice in the episode how Beth & Lily never mention their mum's diagnosis. I am the one who brings it up about mid episode. To them, the diagnosis is irrelevant. Their mum is their mum – the diagnosis does not define their lives, nor their relationship with their mum.

Synopsis:

Beth and Lily are Amanda's daughters. Amanda is a mum with an intellectual disability and she has been raising her girls as a single mother. Amanda wrote about having the twins and raising them in an article published in Ramp Up (see below). Amanda lives on disability grants and has had several challenges while raising her daughters (i.e. housing issues, fear of losing custody), yet she was determined to do right by them. In her article, she speaks of not knowing how her disability specifically affects her abilities, as she can do pretty much everything to take care of herself and them. Disability is often perceived as being 'less than able', yet as Amanda points out, our disability does not impede us from doing. We just find ways that look different to others (without our disability) but that actually feel like 'normal' to us. Like many parents, she managed quite successfully to organise a village of adults and family members so her daughters would be well supported as they grow. Between the articles provided below, the short piece filmed for The Project, an Australian News show and this interview, I hope you get a clear picture of how Parenting can be done differently - and that different can sometimes actually be very similar.

Resources:

Aussie mum with intellectual disabilities determined to keep her girls. The Project. Australia.
<https://www.facebook.com/TheProjectTV/videos/142241791146565/>

We've Got this- ABC Radio – Short series with Eliza Hull:
<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/weve-got-this:-parenting-with-an-intellectual-disability/10429814>

Amanda White (Sept 2013). Being Mum to my girls. Ramp Up.
<https://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2013/04/23/3743367.htm>

Margaret Spencer (April 2013). Being a mother behind a mother with intellectual disability. Ramp Up. <https://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2013/04/23/3743491.htm>