
Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/09 20:56

I've grown to love this show and this family..

Tonight is the start of some new episodes... I think it has gained in popularity..

I am cracking up right now! I can so relate to Amy the mom!

I really admire her... warts and all! She isn't organized and based on a transcript from a chat at that tlc site, her husband says that he thinks it's a rebellion of sort of how she was raised.. To agree to do this show, she was going to be real and honest and you have to respect that!

Reading the transcript is a bit of a hoot too!

Anyway, tonight's episode had in part the family celebrating mother's day and going out for a nice brunch. As most of us know how husbands can be sometime... The children gave her wonderful personal cards and then her husband gives her a gift... which winds up being a gift certificate for professional organizers to come in to 'help relieve the pressure' and to organize a storage room area... When they were showing the segment which provoked the most laughter out of me!.. it was Matt saying in voiceover, that he was hoping Amy wouldn't take it the wrong way... Then you seeing him looking everywhere but at her while she is reading the card... The table became a bit silent... I think Amy really didn't know what to say... Many moms/wives would be insulted or hurt... Amy seems to take it in stride and acknowledges her own faults..

Anyway, I guess you had to see it to appreciate the humor... or have been on that end of such a practical gift on a special occasion.

Since organizing isn't my forte... I wouldn't mind professional services... But it just seemed that based on what I read at the chat that Amy really wanted to be true to herself... Seems this show is creating a bonanza for them... Big difference between when the show first came on and they were struggling to make ends meet and now..

If noone is familiar with the show... It's a reality show that follows a very special family who lives in Washington State.. The parents are little people, who have 4 children. 3 of normal sized with the 2 eldest being twin boys... One small in stature like his parents and the other normal.

What I find endearing about this family, is that how typical the kids are... in interacting with one another and with their parents and then again how much you really do see that they love each other and are trying to raise the kids with good values. Sure there are things that I wouldn't do... but I see so many good things in this show.

It's also nice to observe the issues related to being a little person.. and perhaps being a normal person with little parents! They all take everything in stride..and the love and caring is very apparent!

Check it out if you haven't seen it.. Or leave your feedback.. Might be a fun show to comment on....

PS: I don't know if this show would be considered exploiting or not... That would be a good discussion. I don't think I could subject my kids to this stuff (as far as if I were in their shoes and the invasion of their daily lives with the cameras)... I guess if it began to adversely affect the kids and family they could stop at any time... Right now it seems to be very profitable for them! They want the farm to become self supporting and I have no doubt their beautiful farm has rec'd free exposure and should be a popular spot now!

Post edited by: KPW1956, at: 2006/10/09 21:31

Post edited by: KPW1956, at: 2006/10/09 21:32

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/10/09 22:59

Oh KP.....I LOOOOOOOOOOOOVE this show!!!!!!!!!!!!

I don't think it's exploitive at all.....it's such an honest look at life with these types of challenges. And, I hope, incredibly enlightening to many of us who have absolutely no idea of what life is like for them or even much knowledge about dwarfism.

I LOVE the fact that at times she's a frazzled, disorganized mom who's running crazy!!!! THANK YOU!!!!
See.....doesn't matter what size, shape, color, etc.....common ground!!!! :laugh:

I'm looking forward to the new shows!!!

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/10 00:00

I hope it was clear that I do love the show... I really like Amy and Matt and appreciate their differences in their basic personalities...Just like any other relationship!

Amy is a hard worke. I know for a good chunk of last season she was working 2 jobs... to help support the family while Matt indulged in his dreaming schemes... He's something else...

But the family as a whole is so loveable. Each with their own unique flaws... and strengths!

I don't begrudge them a bit from enjoying the success of their show.. Even if it only runs another season... I am sure it will help put the kids through college and maybe Amy won't have to work 2 jobs..

I think the new episodes will be from their summer.

Apparently the whole farm takes on a different personality during the summer!

That farm sure does look like alot of fun!

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by minn306 - 2006/10/10 07:29

I also really like this show. There is sssoo many things that I can relate to Amy with.

It looks like some great show for the new season.

Let me guess, this show was all Matt's idea!!

Those kids are having their whole life shown on national television, that has got to be hard at times for them. But them seem like really great kids

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/10 11:33

I love this show. Funny how we were watching it but it didn't come up until now. I have a different take on the show though.

I adore Matt. Remember that romantic candlelight dinner he took Amy on last season? He was telling her how much he loved and appreciated her and all she could do is criticize him. It seems that she does that most of the time. The man's legs are so deteriorated that he can barely walk, but she nagged and nagged until he went back to to his sales job which requires traveling around the world. I can't believe this is good for his health.

I know she says she had two jobs, but, last season when she was describing what she did, she said she was an assistant pre-school teacher and she didn't work everyday. Her other job was coaching her son's soccer team. I think they were 8 year olds. It wasn't as if she was working 2 full time jobs for many hours per week. THis new episode showed her at the pre-school graduation as if she was THE teacher. I don't recall it that way from last season. Looks like extreme editing to me.

Last season I also recall Matt sending Amy and their daughter on a hot air balloon ride, taking Amy on a cruise to the Caribbean, remodeling their house to make the kitchen more accessible for Amy and buying her a new car with a remote hatchback to make it easier for her to use. He is a thoughtful man.

This season's first show after Matt read aloud the poem written by one of their son's, Amy says sarcastically, that he read it badly. Matt apologizes and sits there looking shamed....for nothing. She is just mean. This was before he gave her the organizer as a gift so she couldn't use that as an excuse.

I think a nicer mother's day gift would have been flowers, jewelry, or such, but she would just criticize whatever he chose.

As far as the house goes, it is a sight, but, I don't judge people based on how tidy their house is. My standards are high, but I know some great people who live in a mess. I don't blame Amy for that.

There is really no excuse for their house to be so disorganized though. Three of those children are old enough to keep it very clean as a part of their chores. When I was growing up a part of my job in the family was to clean most of the house. I didn't like it, but, we did have a clean and tidy home. I learned how to clean and that came in handy for me later in life.

I think the show is doing a great job exposing what little people are like. I know I now feel comfortable with them and would welcome them into my social circle without hesitation. I don't even really see their height as a major part of the show. It's just so darn entertaining to see them interact as a family. I look forward to the rest of the season and I will try to keep my cool when it comes to Amy...but just take notice of what I say. I really don't think I could live with someone who criticized me that much.

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to keep my cool when it comes to Amy...but just take notice of what I say. I really don't think I could live with someone who criticized me that much.

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/10 12:02

I really do understand what you are saying Debby, but I have to say that it would be frustrating being married to Matt at times... He always has some sort of project going on.... He even describes himself as a dreamer...

Amy is the one who does the day to day managing of the house and kids.. Before the kitchen was remodeled, just making meals and normal stuff was definitely more labor intensive because of her own stature.. The new kitchen I am sure is alot more user friendly for her... Last night Jeremy was complaining about the height of the microwave... In a house like that you can't please everyone... Heck, microwaves are so cheap... why not have 2!

I see Amy coming around this season.. I think she's beginning to enjoy the perks that the show has bought to the family and it should ease the financial problems.. Matt seems to want to spend money on one project or another faster than he can make it... I think it was probably alot more reassuring to have a steady paycheck.. I think he'd be able to have a home office and work for home rather than doing the travel... I thought it was ultimately her decision..and made to ease her stress.. He was just trying to get the farm profitable..

I think Amy entered the whole idea of the TLC project with skepticism.... What mother wouldn't have? To her it was probably another 'dream'... I really gotta respect her for wanting to be who she is...warts and all..(i.e. messiness). You can see the genuine love the family has for one another... She is the disciplinarian of the family... and he gets to play the good guy to the kids the majority of the time.

One episode last season I disagreed with Matt was about the money that Zach mishandled from the farm sales... Matt had it and was waiting for Zach to panic or realize it was missing.. Apparently it came out that everytime Matt found money of Zach's or something he put it away... He said he'd eventually give it back... I just think they should have been in agreement with how it should be handled.. I agree about teaching the kids responsibility...But Matt was a bit gleeful about not letting Zach know what he was doing... I don't remember exactly how it went down.. I know Matt was trying to teach him a lesson but at the same time, I didn't think it was quite fair the particular way he was trying to do it.. I don't think Amy did either..

I think Matt is a dreamer and a romantic... and Amy the practical one.. There in lies the reality that most couples have some form of conflict with their personalities... I think they accept one another for how it is...

I just thought the editing was funny regarding the organization project 'gift'.. Matt looking everywhere but at Amy's reaction to reading it. I think she enjoyed having someone else make the decisions about how the laundry room and pantry would be set up... She got to be the decision maker. Ultimately it's good for the whole family.. As I said I wouldn't mind that type of gift.. I'm a bit practical too..

One thing to mention.. Even when Matt does these projects and dreams... he gets others involved.. Even if it was nice for Matt to send his wife and daughter (who enjoy the same birthday) on a balloon ride and get away together...he was at home trying to redo a bathroom for her.. He tends to be a bit too bossy with the volunteers.. Namely his dad! I can see that even his dad gets annoyed at him!

But I think the Roloff's are enjoying the popularity of their show and the pressure is probably off Amy. I really can understand where she was coming from last season or when the show first started.. I remember her being worried about the bills and here Matt was drawing plans for an addition on the house..!

The chat transcript was interesting.. Matt says he earned great money when he was working.. and how they bought the farm in 1990.. But he also lost alot of money in the stock market.. I can understand how he even became a dreamer... because of his own childhood restrictions due to his legs.. He also made mention of taking comments people make regarding their family into consideration.. Of course, throwing out the negative...and keeping the constructive.. They each see their own faults and are striving to bring balance into their home. Matt mentioned too to someone's question if the show was a good representation of their home and life..and he said it was according to alot of people who knew them. Oh yeah, Zach was part of the chat... It was an interesting read.

He's a smart businessman... I'm sure Amy is thanking and appreciating him... I do see alot of warmth... But keeping up with 4 kids is a crazy life. I can imagine the day to day craziness.

Last night they showed the preschool graduation and it looked like Amy was the spokesman to the families... so I think

she was or wound up anyway being the primary teacher..

I hardly ever see her sitting down... so I think she is an incredibly hard worker and devoted mom. I can see why Matt really does genuinely appreciate her too!

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/10 14:07

Yes, I do think Amy has many good qualities. She is certainly a hard worker and very devoted to her children. I just wish she would cut out some of the negativity when it comes to Matt. On the next program I'm going to count how many times she says anything nice or supportive to Matt.

Matt's father and he do butt heads at times when Matt gets overly bossy, which he does have a tendency to do. I think he does that because he has so little say so in the house. I also picked up on several times that Amy and Matt's parents seem to clash. Amy did not like it one bit when Matt's mother cleaned her house when she was on vacation. You could tell Matt's mother thought the house was toooo dirty and needed a good cleaning. You know what they say about 2 women in the kitchen....not going to work.

It seems the kids have picked up on Amy's negativity towards Matt and they demonstrate it at times towards him. I know parents aren't perfect but I have a problem with that.

Now, I would have raised cane if my husband wanted to buy a rooster! All that noise early every morning. That was a bad idea IMO. I would have put my foot down over that.

Anyway, I still enjoy the show and hopefully Matt will get to live his dreams and Amy will loosen up a little.

Post edited by: Debby, at: 2006/10/10 14:10

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/16 12:03

Well I got the chance to check out 2 of the new shows this weekend. Amy actually was nice to Matt twice! I could hardly believe it. Once she said she would like to have dinner with him and then she helped plant pumpkin seeds and plants on their farm. Of course she criticized the heck out of him about it first, but, then she changed gear and jumped in to help and encourage the kids to help as well.

It seems that the kid who is the most negative and critical of his father is Zack. He is their small size son who is a twin. He is just like his mother and always talking trash about his dad. Seldom does he have a kind word for him. That may be because I think his father has very high expectations of him and rides on him alot.

I was so impressed when their daughter Molly agreed to plant pumpkin seeds along with her girlfriends for money. She negotiated a fair price for the service even though her mom was encouraging her to overcharge by far. Molly held her own and kept stating that the price she was quoting was fair.

The Hawaii vacation looks like it's going to be fun. I can't wait to see Matt come down that zip line. Despite his physical obstacles, he will not be held back. I would really love to meet this family, especially Matt. He inspires me. Too late to plant pumpkins, but, I am definitely going to check out a pumpkin patch.

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/10/18 02:02

Oh I'm soooooo jealous of the Hawaiian vacation.....and full-out luxury too!!! Nope.....hubby and I won't get one of those until both kids are thru college!!! :laugh: ;)

I really like the show and I get a sense of each of them with all their strengths and weaknesses. I'm really torn with both

Matt and Amy.....I can so totally see both sides and both viewpoints. I think with the long track record of their marriage they do have a strong bond.

Watching them enjoy the helicopter ride was a blast!!!! Although I'm not getting up on one of those things!! :ohmy:

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/18 09:01

I really do agree with you about Matt and Amy... They probably are well suited to each other... because of their personality differences.. They can help balance one another..

As for Zach being hard on his dad... and sometimes Jeremy being obstinate with his mom... I mostly see it as normal teenage rebellion. I think Matt expects too much out of Zach...and is forgetting that he's only 16.. Case in point is the little people's conventions... and he's always pushing Zach to meeting girls.. I've seen Amy and Jeremy going at it this past season...(jeremy does it in a quiet way) about school things.. being responsible about stuff and I recall the time Jeremy didn't want to go to soccer practices.. I agreed with Amy that once you commit to a team, they are counting on you... and you need to be a team player..not just a 'if you feel like it that day' team player. (my words and general idea she was trying to convey to him)..

I get the feeling that these are normal teen issues with both the older boys. Heck, I can frustrate the heck out of my kids at times... They say I nag... I tell them it's my job...:P :P :P

I haven't seen Molly stir up any ruckus... She seems to be well grounded or perhaps just people pleaser.. Maybe she's still too young. Not sure how old she is at this point.. I'd guess 13 or so... I am sure her time is coming to have the teen conflict stuff with her parents.

All in all, I still think this family has tremendous heart with good intentions and alot of love for one another..

I hope they hadn't overdone a good thing by trying to do a second season.. I would think it would be alot of pressure to have those cameras on and around you so much...

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/18 12:44

Many of the reality stars say that when you are around the cameras so much, you eventually get so accustomed to it that you forget and it's like they aren't even there anymore.

I sometimes wonder how they deal with things like, gas. What if you ate too many chili beans and it starts to show. I would think that would be kind of embarrassing. LOL.

I read on the their website that Matt watched last season's shows and then actually saw how he was too forceful with Zach about meeting girls. He said it made him feel bad and he has pulled back and is not doing that anymore. He didn't realize how bad he was until he saw it on the screen.

I would hope that Amy takes a look at herself and gives Matt a break with her nagging. I just wish he would set her straight sometimes instead of just grinning and taking it. Maybe that's what she is pushing for.

I know that the post here have indicated that the couple is well suited, and they may be to a certain point, however, I think it sets a bad example for the children to have one parent that is so openly critical of the other parent in their presence. If you must do it, do it in private.

I think a nice touch to this season would be Matt and Amy going to marriage counseling.

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/18 14:59

You make some great points Debby... I do agree that all of them after seeing themselves as others see them will hopefully see things differently and strive to change some of their own faults or at least improve on them.. That was one thing I used to say pretty regularly about the SO women.. that I hope that once they saw themselves from the outside looking in, that it would make a difference..

Debby, are you referring to the transcript from a chat at the official website? I read that and i think Zach participated in that too... I think the Zach said that pretty much their home is pretty typical but of course like most reality shows (including SO) the producer's opt to focus on the conflict stuff. What family doesn't have some sort of conflict.. Certainly having teenagers in the house...there is bound to be some. Matt and Amy should always be on the same page about discipline issues.. I think they both want their kids to do well and be successful.

I think their household is probably even more active than the typical household.. because of them living on a farm.. or at least it allows them to have a more diverse living experience than the suburbanites that I know!

I think this upcoming season will focus more on their summer..

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/10/19 04:10

I also agree Debby, that you don't criticize one parent in front of the children.....that really can be damaging to the relationship with the kids and parents in splitting the loyalties. But, I also can see that there would be more focus on the conflicts when they cut the show in production. That doesn't mean there aren't those conflicts, but I'm guessing not with the frequency we see in the show.

I know I'd hate cameras in on everyday life!! But I do think this family will see their weaknesses (like Matt did) and that can be a wonderfully positive thing.

I do enjoy the show and certainly feel more normal with my disorganization and my teens!!!! ;):laugh:

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/19 12:02

I forgot something in my post. This is a reality show and if it were not for the conflict there would be little drama and therefore not much interest to the production company. Oh yeah. Just kidding, but not really. I do think most of their drama is real. It doesn't come off as fake set up stuff like most of the realti shows.

KPW, I did read that interview on their website, but the only one I read was by Matt. How much of the stuff they do, do you think is paid for by the production company? Such as the vacation, cruise last season, hot air balloon ride, beach trip, house remodel, etc.?

Depsite my nit picking, I can't wait for the next episode.

TLC had a special about 2 other little people families. Did you see them. One of the families has 3 children and I think all of them are little. Maybe one was not.

The other family consist of an orthopaedic surgeon who is a little person and he is married to an average sized wife. They have a little girl who is also a little person. I thought that was so amusing. Could you see yourself married to a little person? I never could before, but after getting to know these families as I have, I think I can understand how that could happen.

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/19 13:01

I did see one other special about another family. But I thought that one was only a one time episode.. I recall that all the

members of that family were little but the oldest daughter was adopted. I think she was autistic. The mother was a teacher.. That family was really cool! I love their positive attitudes. It really does make one appreciate the things we take for granted.. Maybe the Roloff's and the other family were both contending for a reality show spot... and TLC waited to see which would garner a greater audience.

I recall seeing something a couple years ago about a dwarf orthopedic surgeon but I don't recall anything about his family.

One of the episodes this past season on the Roloff family, is that Matt took Zach to meet several professionals who happened to be dwarfs.. One was able to capitalize on his size and did special work on submarines... another was a professor..

What sets the Roloff family apart is the diversity of the family sizewise and how they deal with that... Also interesting that they live on a beautiful farm and both parents came from average sized parents.

There are a couple dwarfs in my neighborhood. I know one woman by her first name and she lives a half block away... She tends to be a bit shy... Her husband is average sized and her 2 children are also dwarfs.. One is a sophomore in high school. I sure hope kids that are different due to dwarfism are benefitting from this show...and making 'normal' kids a bit more sensitive and accepting. The other woman I've seen only occasionally in the grocery store.. Yes, that is definitely a challenge! I have often seen Patti, shop later at night when the store is less crowded.. I'm sure you get sick of people looking at you differently.. I appreciate how Amy and Matt just accept and ignore the idiots...

I felt bad for Matt when he had to go through the extra security search at the airport.

I also wondered about all the extras! Matt did say that he had alot of miles piled up due to his traveling for his job.. But that looked like a 5 star hotel! The helicopter ride would have cost a bundle too! But maybe the show is able to arrange VIP type trips in exchange for promotions.. They showed the hotel name! (I forgot what it was though... Sheraton maybe?)

I have no clue how much money Matt makes. I know the farm wasn't self sustaining yet... But I bet this year he does great with all the publicity of the last season's show... Maybe he gets a commission on his software sales..

I am sure they are getting a good chunk per episode for the show. Hopefully they'll squirrel it away for the kids educations!

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/19 13:42

Wow, it's amazing that you know that many little people. I have never actually seen a dwarf in person, let alone know one. That's really great. I grew up in a rural area but went to a large university and have lived in a large city for awhile now. Funny I would not ever meet one.

I think they stayed at the Four Seasons, not sure, I may be thinking of something else. It was nice. The hotel probably provided the rooms free or reduced for the advertising. I bet the show provides a certain amount of stuff too because it spices up the show.

I have developed a fear of planes and helicopters. Too many accidents don't make it tempting to me anymore. I will fly if necessary but only if it's necessary. I wouldn't get into a helicopter just for fun because I think I would be too worried to have much fun. I'm glad other people enjoy it though.

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/19 16:16

With all the travel Matt was doing with his company, he obviously had racked up alot of frequent flyer miles. My husband has had to do alot of traveling the last couple years and he also builds miles and earns credits toward hotels.. so that could have been a factor.. We actually will get 2 free nights over the Thanksgiving holiday when visiting family in Ga. It's easier on all of us (and our nerves) if we didn't stay cooped up together for 3 days! LOL! So we pay for 1 get 2 free! Good Deal huh?

We did have to use alot of our frequent flyer miles for our daughter this past spring and summer...

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/23 20:59

The show must be so popular that they need to show reruns on back to back nights between Saturday and Monday... Tonight I was catching the Hawaii episodes again.. I'd seen them last night..

I got a chuckle out of a couple things.. One was Amy getting a pedicure with her daughter Molly! The other was Matt tackling the zip wire challenges..! Some of his worried expressions were priceless!

With the rerun tonight... I caught better the arrival to the facility that they did the zip wire. I checked it out online and thought those who saw the episodes might be interested. Especially anyone anticipating going to Hawaii and wanting something unique to do! (As if there wouldn't be enough unique things to do in Hawaii! :))

http://www.skylinehawaii.com/adventure_courses.htm

Matt deserves alot of credit for hanging in there! Literally! and going with it!

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/24 12:06

Yeah, I catch the reruns all the time. I prefer watching them of this show more than the other stuff that is usually on. This Hawaii vacation was exceptionally beautiful. I could picture myself there living it up. But of course I need a man to make it super romantic. I'm still working on that. LOL.

Matt is such a good sport. He did get on my nerves rushing them in the store. I would need at least a couple of hours to shop for sourviners in Hawaii....at least. Glad Amy finally got a t-shirt.

Has Matt ever said what is wrong with his legs. I know it is from his dwarfism. I noticed that even in the boat or on the beach he would not show his legs. He kept on jeans and never put on swimming trunks. I was so glad that he was able to do the zip line activity. He pretends that his disabiltiy doesn't bother him, but you can tell it does. Of course Amy had to rub in the fact that he was not able to row the boat so he shouldn't be tired from the boat ride. I liked his response "Having fun can wear you out."

The surfing and snorkeling looked fun but I kept thinking of all the wild life specials I have seen about shark attacks on swimmers and surfers in Hawaii. I'm serious. At one time they had a offensive kill program in Hawaii to kill certain sharks because of the fatal attacks on swimmers. It didn't work and messed up the ecosystem so they ceased the program. I'm not a spoil sport, really, but sharks and helicopters are not my favorite things. I used to swim all the time at the beaches here in North Carolina and South Carolina, but we have had our fair share of shark attacks too....even some deaths. My best friends daughter's dog was attacked by a shark last summer when she was surfing. Her dauhter saved him from being eaten. This happend at Wrightsville Beach here in NC.

Of course if they were paying me well to do the show, I might make an exception. Do you think that Amy really wanted to do much of that stuff? If not for the show would she have gone on all those activities with the children? I don't know.

I thought the salon scene was good too. I couldn't believe that whole thing was so foreign to her. I take it for granted that all women go for manicures and pedicures every couple of weeks. I have acrylic nails so I keep those maintained every couple of weeks and have for years. I've never thought of myself as pampered but maybe I am.

One thing that bothered me is that Zack is the only child that really says anything on camera. There have been some shows in which the other kids speak, but, normally they don't.

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/24 13:00

I know at the top of last season's show... Matt describe in voiceover while showing pictures of his and Amy's story... that as a child he was hospitalized alot.. I think he's had numerous surgeries on his legs... They are probably all scarred up! He and Amy have different types of dwarfism.. His cause some of his bones to be mangled.. as you can see with his hands..

I agree with him that having fun CAN wear you out! I'm sure it's no picnic using those crutches the way he does..

I have noticed that the other kids don't say much either.. I think they were showing one episode the other week when the youngest was acting like a brat.. I had wondered if (Jeremy especially) has become resentful of the cameras..

I would have liked it if they had shown how they spent some down time in the hotel.. Do they play board games or watch a video? The whole vacation they were go...go...go... The zip wire activity looked pretty affordable especially if you booked it online.. I wonder how long it would have taken to do it.. I'm sure they may have provided it in exchange for the plug on the show.. I mean that's how I found the site. BTW, that link I gave had some graphics that were pretty neat. I need to look through it more..but thought you'd like it..

Debby, I've NEVER had a manicure or pedicure. No desire to have a pedicure ever! Something about other people handling my feet would 'ick' me out.. Maybe because I wouldn't want to handle other people's feet! I haven't ever fussed too much with my nails. Especially not the last 20 years or so..

With Matt and Amy living on a farm..I didn't get the impression it was something she did on a regular basis.. Maybe a special occasion only. When the show started it looked like it would have been far from the families mind... since they were just trying to make ends meet.. I thought it funny cause her feet didn't reach the footbath.. and she had to sit forward on the seat and point her toes down just to get her toes in the water! Poor thing.. You'd think they would have had some way of modifying the foot bath's for her.

Maybe the novelty of the cameras are wearing thin on the kids....

I think the family should all be on the same page for the project..

Otherwise, it could backfire on them.. Maybe 2 seasons would be enough to achieve financial security and generate interest in their family and farm. I think they've done alot of good by exposing the challenges of being a little person..but also exposing the challenges of having a mixed household as theirs is!

I do enjoy it.. It will be interesting to see if it gets back on track when they return from Hawaii. The one episode where Matt gets Zach, Jeremy and his friends to try to plant the pumpkin seeds might have been telling. The older boys are teens and of course teens typically tend to want to find their own independence.. I think they rebelled against Matt as they probably felt taken advantage of. But a deal was a deal.. They should have finished the job..

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/24 14:47

This is true KPW. I think Matt gives the kids great ideas for business. They will appreciate that later in life I'm sure. I would like another season of the show but I can understand how the kids may be sick of it by then. But then again, if it means great trips and new cars, they may say "Bring it On."

KPW, my mother is the same way about nails. She has never had a manicure or pedicure either. I know it may sound gross, but, it really isn't. I would encourage you to consider doing it just for yourself. It's not really about how good your nails look but how it feels. I would select a place that you are sure is very clean. I only go to this one place and the same person always does my nails. Different people do my pedicures, but, I know they are EXTRA clean so I don't have to worry about germs. I've gone there for years and I see how they clean after each person.

Everyone there is Vietminese.(sp?) They have a very strong work ethic and love to please the customer. You sit in these chairs like you saw on the show and they are vibrating, so you have this wonderful relaxing massage as you sit and have the soapy whirlpool on your feet. They then trim and file your nails, do other work on your toes, and remove dead skin from your feet. They don't judge feet. They treat every foot like a piece of art. I am witness to this.

I lay my head back and almost go to sleep. Sometimes it tickles a bit. They then massage your feet under the water and then dry them off, apply lotion or oil and massage your calves ankles and feet. It is a very exotic experience. Finally they will paint your toenails if you wish, or if not just put some clear on them. It is so relaxing and afterwards your feet are as smooth as silk and also look more refreshed. It is a real picker upper. The cost is little compared to the great way it makes me feel.

Anyway that's my sermon on nail care. I do it more for the mental therapy than anything else. If you do ever try it, let me know what you think.

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by mejustme - 2006/10/24 17:38

I thought I would hate this show. Because of the guy on the Jackass, which I NEVER watch but they have been on other shows I watch like America's Next Top Model. The guy absolutely disgusts me. Well after watching Little People, Big World I realize it has nothing to do with him being a dwarf but that he is just a disgusting person no matter what his size. But it really angers me because I think he does give a bad name for people who suffer from dwarfism.

I have really enjoyed this show. They are such a typical family and I love the mom. The dad reminds me of my husband in that he is pretty cranky all the time. I think the kids are just normal, the teens pretty much don't talk and the 9 year old is a brat. Aren't the two older boys twins?

Probably the only thing that bothers me is that their house is a disaster! When they left for Hawaii, did you see the shot of the inside of that house? I could never leave it like that. Now I am by no means a clean freak, but having all those clothes and just stuff all over the furniture and floor would make me crazy.

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/24 17:50

I'm glad the show has another fan here at SOT. You seem to be of the same mindset as most of the posters here in your admiration of Amy. I must be the lone ranger because I adore Matt and am consistenly disappointed in Amy's critical attitude. She never misses an opportunity to put him down.

I agree about the messy house. Last season I thought it was due to her work schedule that she didn't have time for housework, but, now there is no excuse. I think that's just the way she likes it. I am super clean but have friends who live very differently. They don't consider it a priorty at all. I've tried to learn to accept that that is how some people are. By the way, it never changes. If you are a slob you never change...at least I've never seen it happen before.

I posted earlier that with 3 kids of sufficient age to pick up their own things, there is no excuse for that big mess though. Plenty of kid have household chores. When you know your house is going to be aired on national tv and you allow that mess.....wierd. I would think most people would be embarrassed, even my friends who are slobs would clean for the tv.

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/10/24 22:15

Debby,

I love Matt too!! I just also can really relate to Amy with kids and house and work and hubby's needs sometimes!!!! But I do love that whole family for it's "normalness".....isn't that what it's really about?? To show just that.....how families all are normally functional and crazy in many ways??!!! ;) ;)

RE: the messy house. Well.....I struggle with this, but because of health issues, a messy hubby and homeschooling and such a tiny house. Really, we have far less "stuff" than almost anyone I know....but simply no space, no garage, no basement. Now.....I have dejunked and done some amazing changes thanks to Flylady. But I also realize that much of the clutter comes from the perfectionist in me that gives up since it can't be Better Homes and Gardens!!!

I also have always made no secret of putting chores, etc. behind time with my family. Yes, it's no excuse and a balance must be struck (no we've NEVER lived in a pigsty nor filth!!!!!!) but like any other aspect in life.....some of us have the ability to be more organized and some of us struggle. I do understand that, and yet, I also would never allow others to see a mess, nor to have my kids subjected to dirt and germs and filth.

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/10/24 22:15

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ETA.....don't know how it double posted, sorry!! :blush:

Post edited by: grizzlys4, at: 2006/10/24 22:16

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/24 22:43

After mejustme's post about another show and the way that dwarfs are portrayed sometimes...caused me to remember that Matt had mentioned in an earlier show last season.. that he was in a Star Wars Movie.. Of course I had to do a search to find it...and was lucky enough to find that and a whole lot more.

How about a Myspace page for the family... (Jeremy has his own too!)..

<http://www.myspace.com/mroloff>

Check out the pics...(some are fuzzy) You'll see a pict from when he was an Ewok (or was his name ewok?) in the Star Wars movie.. You'll also see a pict from 3 years or so ago... when the family was on Oprah..

Check out the blogs..

I didn't look at the additional friends listings.. Over 700! But Jeremy's link to his page is right there on the front page!

Here is the site I originally found that led me to the Myspace info.

It also has some other credits ...(radio, tv and book) His book has an interesting title... I'd be interested in reading it. I wonder how it did.. It looks like it was published in 99.

<http://www.nerf-herders-anonymous.net/MattRolloff.html>

PS: after a bit of searching...I found Zach's Myspace..

<http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=16716797>

Post edited by: KPW1956, at: 2006/10/24 23:00

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/24 22:53

Oh my gosh! I just checked a link about his book...and it took me to the Canadian version of Amazon.com. They only had 1 new and used book... It looks like it's tripled in value...

http://www.amazon.ca/gp/offer-listing/1576735834/ref=dp_olp_2/701-4816309-4528344?ie=UTF8

Well the U.S. version of Amazon has a whopping 3 copies.. and they are all listed at around \$18... High for Amazon!

http://www.amazon.com/Against-Tall-Odds-Goliath-World/dp/1576735834/sr=1-1/qid=1161744543/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1/104-0217024-0651966?ie=UTF8&s=books

I bet it would be a ripe time for him to get a reprinting of the book! Or author another!

I know canadian currency is different from U.S. currency but not by that much.. I think maybe with the popularity of the show... People can sell their used ones at a profit.. I had to buy a hard to find book for a daughter's english class a couple years ago... Amazon just helps facilitate the sale.. I think the owner (of the used copies) can ask whatever they want..

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Martswife - 2006/10/25 02:20

KPW1956 wrote:

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<http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=16716797>
KPW1956, at: 2006/10/24 23:00

Try checking out www.mattroloff.com. Under "Latest News" is some info about their Carribean Cruise scheduled for 2007 & an invitation to come along.

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/25 09:05

Wow! Thanks!

I can't believe they are going on another vacation already! I think the Hawaii trip was just in June.. Ahhhhh...the perks of success!

I haven't looked around his site extensively yet but did look at the Resources section... and it had some links.. One of the links was for his side business. The Access Solutions Kit..he is trying to market to hotels.. There you can click on a 3 minute advertisement essentially. Many who watched the show last season will recognize alot of the shots. I think Matt and Amy went to a local hotel with another couple to do promo shots for this ad..

I think the promo ad was done very well... I noticed on the order form.. that the kit costs \$325 but Matt throws in an autographed copy of his book for free! LOL! For a corporate expense, it is probably a good investment. Maybe not the book though.. They can recoup some of their expense by selling it at Amazon... JK!!!LOL!

btw, Amazon.. I mentioned had 3 books by anonymous owners.. I checked after I posted last night.. and all 3 are in Oregon.. 2 of them are the same 'vendor/person' and selling those copies for under \$20... The other person was selling their copy for \$52.95... I think the books are designated 'collectibles' or something.. If you buy it new it was \$17.95.. but the other 2 are probably autographed or something... they cost more..

Matt is really taking advantage of the success of the show... I sure hope it doesn't overwhelm them! Cruises, speaking engagements? Maybe soon he'll be able to give up that other job... that he only took to appease Amy and help pay the bills. But it looks like the show is taking off... According to one of the posts on the blogs.. I think Zach said that he didn't originally want to do the show... (now it's kinda cool)... but I think he also mentioned that the show is one of TLC's top shows if not THE top show!

Thanks for the find Martswife!

Just surprised they are doing a cruise so soon after the other big vacation.. It might have been a nice thing to do during the winter.

I wonder if this one is sans cameras. Which I am sure would allow them to relax and enjoy their trip alot more!

I think the current season was focusing mostly on their summer.

PS: After looking at the Roloff's shop at their website, I see that Matt is probably the main vendor at Amazon.. and the books are only available through himself and anyone who might already have copies..

Post edited by: KPW1956, at: 2006/10/25 10:52

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/25 11:12

I really appreciate all the research that was done to get these sites. I'm excited about the cruise. I e-mailed their travel agent to get more info. I think I really might go depending on the cost and timing. If anyone else is interested send me a PM. Boy would that be great to get to hang out with you guys on a cruise.

Grizz, I have a space problem too. I need to have a yard sale bad, but have waited too late this year. My health problems just kept me from being physically able to move and set up the sale. NOW the stuff is taking up an entire room at my house. It's very frustrating and I know I will feel renewed if I could just get that stuff out. I'm a inch away from hiring a truck to come and take it away to charity. I was planning on using the money from the sale of the items to buy a special dog I want. Oh well, not sure what I'll do. I have spent the last few weeks cleaning all of the rest of the house. I mopped all the floors for 2 weeks straight!! I'm so proud of myself.

I have decided to get a lady to come in once per week to do cleaning. I think that may take some of the stress off of me. I had to clean before she comes so she won't run away and refuse the job. LOL.

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/25 11:24

Debby, Let us know what you find out about the cruise. I thought I saw the cruise as happening in October and as we know October has less than a week left.. The trip may have already occurred. Or they may be on it as we speak. Maybe they'll say something more about it on one of the sites..

I was wondering if it was an LPA event primarily.

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/25 11:58

KPW, I'll let you know what I find out. The site list it as October 2007, whether that is a misprint or not, I'm not sure. I hope it's 2007. That would give me time to plan around it and get more healthy.

Post edited by: Debby, at: 2006/10/25 15:56

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/25 12:03

my bad.... I didn't catch the year... Who woulda thunk 2007? I made an assumption.. dummy me!

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/10/26 20:35

Definitely thanks for all the info.....cool!!

Debby, if you get to go that would be awesome!!!! You'll have to set up your own blog to keep us all posted!!!!!! ;)

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/27 15:10

Grizz, I'm not sure if I'm going to go or not. I received an e-mail back from the travel agent. The first thing is that the deadline for the deposit was October 1 of this year! That's a little early to have a deadline IMO for a trip next year. But anyway, it sounded as if you could still do it if they have additional space and they told me to call some other person to see if I could see get in.

In addition to this is that the prices are a little steep IMO. The cost are much higher than what most people that I know pay for cruises, but, anyway, I think it would be very nice from the way it is described.

What bothered me the most is that they kept repeating that Matt and Amy would be on vacation and it was their private time. It was very obvious that they want the guests to leave Matt and Amy alone while on this cruise, which I can understand, but, if that is the case, then why advertise it as a trip with Matt and Amy? They should just go privately and not advertise it. They did say that there would be some kind of event for the guest that Matt and Amy would speak at and you can meet them. I don't know how they could get that many people in a special hall in order to do this, so I would not count on it.

And lastly, there is a statement at the end that looks like a disclaimer stating that RIGHT NOW Amy and Matt intend to be on this cruise, but do to circumstances that could change. In other words, there is no guarantee that Matt and Amy will be on that cruise and if they aren't, you can't get a refund or cancel.

So I still haven't decided yet. I'm going to think about it a little more. If I'm going to spend a lot of money, I'd rather go to

London. I was there in 1996 and loved it. I vowed I would go back and haven't yet. If I'm going to spend a thousand dollars I would probably get more out of the London trip, although, I sure would like to meet Matt and Amy. Decisions...Decisions.

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/10/27 18:04

I'm with you Debby! As much as I'd love to meet them too.....I'm so not willing to pay lots of hard-earned money for possibilities!! That's okay if someone really wants to....but not me. To save up for a cruise will take us quite a bit of time too...and we really want to enjoy what we want for our money. I think Amy and Matt should understand as that's exactly what they said about their Hawaii trip. Any other person is the same!!!

All the same, I wish them well in their ventures, but I think they do need to be careful about advertising....everyone wants to get what they pay for! I'd actually rather go visit their farm at pumpkin season when we go to the northwest next year!!!

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/27 23:30

I think Matt needs to be careful that he doesn't exploit his own family for the almighty dollar! If this was going to be a private family vacation... then they shouldn't have advertised it.

I noticed they had to put extra info on their website about the farm. That it is only open at certain times of the year. They probably have a bunch of people trying to come see it.. and now aren't appreciating their popularity.

<http://mattroloff.com/farm.html>

If the kids can't even enjoy their childhoods because of the popularity of the show... than to me it isn't worth it.

I did want to mention that Wednesday night they were showing an overview of the first season. When Zach was in the hospital having to have the shunt repaired/replaced.. Matt mentioned that they didn't have any insurance and they'd have to pay that on their own. I am betting that that might have also played a role in him deciding to go back into the corporate world. Having health insurance for your family...especially when you have tendencies to have health issues would be a big consideration!

Right after he mentioned they didn't have health insurance they showed he and Amy and their friends eating out at Outback and where he mentioned to Amy he had been offered a job and he was going to accept it. Could have been coincidental..but health insurance might have tipped the decision making. That and having a regular income definitely would have made Amy happy. Now it seems they don't have any financial woes! But that comes with a price.... I bet they are hounded everywhere they go!

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by patacake - 2006/10/28 00:55

Hi. Great to see everyone is still at it. Miss the SO chat, but there's more to life than virtual reality. Do enjoy these shows when I have time to watch. What people will do for money. :sick:

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/30 12:41

I do think the health insurance was a major factor in the employment decision. But, I would think that Matt and maybe even Amy would qualify for some type of federal or state aid based on their disabilities, especially Matt. I know he can get around, but, certainly he has a more difficult time in his mobility than some people I know who are on total disability.

It' s not just his legs but his hands too that he can barely use.

It seems that dwarfs are becoming the craze in Hollywood. Do any of you watch Nip Tuck? It's listed under drama on this board.

One of the main characters, Julia, is falling in love with her male nanny who is a little person. The baby suffers from an heredity disfigurement in which the hands are claw like. I can't recall the name of it. The male nanny is quite sensitive and the mother has really warmed up to him. So far they have kissed, but Tuesday night, it looks like the nanny is seeking leg lengthening surgery in order to be more physically attractive for his average sized lover.

Oh, by the way, Julia is married to one of the show's top 2 plastic surgeon's! The show is getting hot. I don't think there has ever been a love scene between a dwarf and an average sized person before. I may stand corrected, but, I haven't seen one. This may prove to be a first. Usually their love scenes are quite explicit.

Post edited by: Debby, at: 2006/10/30 12:42

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/10/31 02:55

I loved the new shows about the Dwarf Athletic Association meet they went to! I think that's so awesome! I hope they can continue funding.....I would think the publicity from this show should help.....after all, I'd never heard of it, and I'm sure there are sponsors that would be interested.

Anyway.....I thought the trip went pretty smoothly for them, with ups and downs that you surely expect from a 16 y.o. boy!!!! I did learn quite a bit and found it very inspiring too!

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/31 08:23

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Anyway.....I thought the trip went pretty smoothly for them, with ups and downs that you surely expect from a 16 y.o. boy!!!! I did learn quite a bit and found it very inspiring too!

Grizz, I just saw the episodes last night. I think they replay them several times during the week..

I was thinking the same thing when Matt was talking about it... Probably one reason he wanted to highlight it... It's nice that they have something that will give an opportunity for a whole segment of our population to do things they might not otherwise get a chance to.. Especially the kids.. It is probably so wonderful to feel among the majority rather than the minority.

I didn't understand the conflict in the house earlier on though... with Zach and his parents.. I'll have to watch another rerun and put the cc on.. With my bad ears, it helps alot!

Yeah most of the conflict was pretty typical and didn't make sense... Hey! Just like most homes too! Or Zach was being ridiculous or maybe his dad was... Both are distinct possibilities! But it seems it was over in a flash...

I wasn't sure what Jeremy was saying at the top of the show.. I thought he was giving them a little flack too..

=====

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/31 13:48

I remember Zach was complaining that his team was going to lose. This was before they even left the house. Amy was trying to get him out of that frame of mine and encouraging him to think positive and go out there to play for the fun of it and do your best...you know, be a good sport and have fun. Zack was just being negative. He has very little self-esteem.

Zach seems to be negative quite a bit. But, I guess many kids his age are that way. His twin brother doesn't seem to be quite as negative. I chalk it up to Amy's influence. I'm really serious. She is always bad mouthing Matt and hardly ever has a positive outlook on anything Matt says or does. I think her attitude has rubbed off on Zach.

I saw in the previews that Amy is upset that Matt bought an outdoor grill. Apparently he didn't discuss it with her and she's not pleased. I hope it's not more "kick dad, he's so terrible" day on the show. I'm sure they can sell it or return it if they can't use it, or even gift it to their parents. Matt looks like a scared little kid that got caught with his hand in the cookie jar. LOL.

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/31 15:37

Thanks for the recap regarding what you picked up. It sounded like Zach was mad at his parents.. But yes, most kids tend to be really self conscious and lack self confidence. I'm sure having a twin who is of normal height and cute and popular would naturally undermine ones confidence. Considering..I think he (Zach) does very well and Amy and Matt have tried to equip him to deal with his lot in life. I just think alot of it is his age.

Not even seeing the next show.. I've got to stick up for Amy in some respects. If Matt is going out and making major purchases and plans without consulting her..is a little disrespectful.. I get the impression that is where her frustration lies... He seems to be rather impulsive. He even considers himself to be a dreamer... he's always got those wheels churning... I'm sure she'd just love for him to slow down a bit.. I sense she has a tendency for sarcasm which could be how she grew up.. She seems pretty balanced the majority of the time... We've seen clips of the grill episode or what I presume is from the grill episode. It shows Amy having to climb up on something to put steaks on a grill. Perhaps not the safest thing to do. If they wanted to get a grill, alot of considerations should have been made.. Who was going to be using it.. and if it could be modified. I'd think that could be done... Her arms are a bit shorter than normal. Just opening and closing the grill could be a problem. I think she would be the one primarily having to do the grilling... she should have had some input in the purchase and maybe be able to find one she was comfortable using.

It could be that it was a perk... and someone gave it to them in exchange for product placement / promotion! Just a possibility of course!

My husband and I tend to talk about stuff like this... pruchases, goals and try to stay on the same page. Sometimes one or the other has to be bending to the other's position when we differ on needs and wants.

I just think Matt is always dreaming and scheming.. I am sure living with someone like that has it's frustrations. It's not always easy to support all of your mates decisions.. especially when not consulted.

I guess it would be different if the grill was a gift for her..

It looked like a huge grill and top of the line though.

I'll look forward to seeing this episode which I guess will be on Saturday. I like the fact that they have reruns during the week! Most of the time anyway!

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/31 16:09

I suspect that the production company provides some of the big ticket items and entertainment cost as an expense of the show. It provides a topic of conversation for the family as well as spicing up the potential conflicts, However, Matt seems to always indicate that he is paying for the things. If you notice when they went into the rooms at the Hawaii hotel, he bragged as if he paid for the suite. You know the show must have paid for that or it was a freebie in exchange for advertisement. I'm not sure what I think about that. I'm not even sure if that new car he bought Amy was from him or the show. It provided the subject matter for at least 2 episodes.

I agree with your comments on a couple agreeing on major ticket purchases. My mom used to get frustrated with my dad growing up. He was one that always wanted to surprise the family...even my mother. She was usually not happy with my dad's antics but didn't say much.

My dad would suddenly come home with a new car. He would be all excited and expect us to be as well. I liked the car but my mom was disappointed that she was not consulted. My dad would not even tell us where we were going on vacation until we were in the car and on our way. I don't know if he told my mom but I doubt it. He also would come home with a new fridge, new bedroom suite, you name it. He was really bad that way.

I'm not sure if it was a control issue, or he thought since he was the bread winner he could buy what he wanted, or he really liked surprising the family. He still does it to a certain extent.

Perhaps the Roloff's strike a cord in me regarding my upbringing. And maybe that is why I have issues with Amy, although, my mom didn't complain as much as she does. My mother can be critical of my dad when he doesn't deserve it, IMO. She also lacks patience.

Matt is a little like my dad, except that my dad was always seriously employed and a very good breadwinner for the family. He was not a dream chaser in the sense that Matt is. How's that for self-psychoanalysis?

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/31 17:10

Debbie, I totally understand.. I suspect Matt is the way he is because he's been physically confined somewhat and he has an abundance of energy.. I love both Amy and Matt.

I grew up with a hypercritical father who was an authoritarian.. What he said went. He ruled with an iron fist.. Mom should have spoken up... She was intimidated of him....

I was sure they would divorce when I was a kid.. But summer of 2005 they celebrated their 50th.. and each have mellowed. Mom can stand up to him a bit more by using humor.. Wish she'd found her voice when I was growing up though.. I forgive them as they just really didn't have good role models themselves.. and were under alot of stress with a his hers and theirs family.. I'm the 'theirs'!

Maybe it is a sense of controlling? I remember the first LPBW that I saw...and Matt was showing Amy all these plans for a huge addition for the house.. Matt wasn't working, and Amy was pinching pennies at the grocery store... I remember her just shaking her head.. and being very skeptical. I think she is much more practical..

You know sometimes, spouses can complement one another to some degree. I'm sure Matt doesn't do it nearly as much as he would like... as far as being compulsive. Matt's dad clearly gets frustrated with Matt too. Looks like that will be apparent yet again in the new episodes.

I really like them both.. But as I mentioned in an earlier post I just hope Matt's not exploiting his family too much. The kids and Amy can grow to resent it.. I think it would be hard to live normally with a constant camera in your face and Matt striving for new twists for to hold interest in the show. The TLC site for the show is quite extensive..

I'm sure they enjoyed the perks of that hawaii vacation though. I thought he used frequent flyer miles for the trip.. My husband gets perks through the hotels he stays at when on travel with the gov't too. I think we are using 2 free nights when we visit family in Ga. at thanksgiving. We will pay for one night! A bargain! Maybe Matt got something like that. It sounds like he has a good paying job though..

Did you recognize Casey in the show? She was the swimmer. I think that was the young lady Zach took to the prom. Or did they just call it a 'formal'?

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/10/31 17:29

Yes, that was Casey. I think Matt is right on about her. She is definitely a catch....Cute girl with a great head on her shoulders. She seems to be much better proportioned than many of the little people. I can see why Zach was really drawn to her. She's a great little swimmer too. Perhaps there may be a future for them.

I wonder if the young little people decide to attend the same colleges so they can have a peer around. That would make sense to me.

You described your dad as ruling with an iron fist. Did you pick a husband who does the same thing? Just curious. I've read theories that we grew up and try to find our troubled parent and fix them. So we choose a mate that is similar to one of our parents, usually the one we had the most conflict with and try to fix them, so that finally we have that relationship we yearned for in childhood. Not saying this is an accurate theory but it kinda makes sense.

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/31 18:15

No.. Fortunately I didn't.. I had some good role models outside of my family.. I met my husband at a young adult group when we were in our early 20's.. He had a wonderful role model! His father is a peach.. and 84 today! God Bless him! He is mellow and easy going, just like his dad.. To put up with me and my disorganization he has to be! We actually balance each other out pretty decently and complement one other. His mother is more high strung.. and bossy (domineering)... and my husband's brother tends to be a bit more like his mother.

I think alot of things shape us into who we ultimately become.. Now some of the deep rooted insecurities we have I think tend to be shaped by how we were raised. Of course, once in awhile, I frustrate my own kids by being too critical.. I try to be quick to apologize and acknowledge my blunder when that happens.. I know that a word said in haste and in the wrong way (tone) can stay with you a very long time! My kids know I love them very much... and they are very aware of who I got it from. My father drives us all crazy.. We love him...but he drives us crazy none the less!

I am very blessed! My kids adore their father! I hope they adore me too! But I probably have more quirks than he does! LOL!

My husband and I communicate very well.. We make it a point to get away at least once a year all by ourselves! This year we got away in March to celebrate our 25th anniversary! (We went to Florida for a whole week!) I've already told him I want to go to Alaska for our 30th! This winter we'll just go up to West Va. to our favorite getaway.. They have wonderful jacuzzi's in every room! Now that we are almost empty nesters... I'd love to get a jacuzzi once everyone has flown the coop! Except my bathrooms are too small for the big kind!

My sister did marry someone similar to our father.. It was a huge problem for many many years. But my bil has mellowed too. In part because he gave up alcohol and has also been on an anti depressant for a few years. He didn't have a great homelife either. Many of us baby boomers didn't have parents who benefitted from talk shows and books and magazines helping them navigate the maze called parenthood. Many, and my own included, followed by example from their parents.

I don't envy parents with younger kids these days. There are so many influences bombarding our kids.. I just got lucky!

Sorry for the lengthy reply. You know me... Motor mouth!

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Ciera - 2006/10/31 18:47

You have got to be kidding me....Matt goes out and buys a barbeque and that is disrespectful to his wife. I mean...come on...it's a bbq...it's not a Cadillac.

I like the show. But Jeremy and Zach are rude and disrespectful, especially to their father. That never flew when I was a kid, and I didn't put up with it as a parent, so it wasn't ever really an issue in my household.

I think Amy is a little bit too controlling myself. I think she disrespects Matt in front of those children, and I don't think that sets a very good example for the kids.

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/31 20:16

Maybe disrespect is too strong a term. How about inconsiderate?

Especially if she'll be the one using it.. Alot might depend on why he bought it.. Matt seems to be impulsive sometimes. Maybe he got it at a significant discount.. and took advantage of it..

But I saw her using it in a clip... and since they are little people.. using the thing safely definitely should be a consideration.

I hope most people understand what I was saying even if I didn't word it perfectly...

It looked like a substantial grill.. Not your walmart variety.. Easily could have been \$1000.00.. I just think it better to make decisions about large purchase together as much as is possible. Of course \$1,000 to one family could be chump change to someone else. In our house..that would be a major purchase..

I do agree that parents should have a united front as much as possible in front of the kids..and if there is any conflict that it be resolved quietly and away from the kids. Kids do learn by example.. Be it sarcasm, criticism, or refraining of openly doing those things. The kids will come to think of their house being pretty normal.. As long as there is balance there.. You have to work at balance. Sometimes it gets out of whack.

I know the other week when Jacob was acting up on one particular episode.. they threatened to make him stay home from the beach trip. I thought he was supposed to... and then he went anyway. I haven't seen alot of discipline dolled out. I get the impression that the day to day running of the house and overseeing the kids schedules is Amy's area. I'm sure it's overwhelming sometimes. Sometimes Matt comes across as a big kid too!

I think they are a loving family though, warts and all!

As Matt mentioned in a blog at the TLC site... they too are learning from the show, to see themselves as others see them.. and are trying to make positive changes.

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/10/31 20:28

Debby wrote:

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Hey Debby! Can I jump in here too.....yeah like I'd wait to start posting, eh?????? ;)

About Casey.....she was so adorable!! She's got such a great future ahead of her!!!! I love her attitude!!

RE: marrying a parent.

The three of us are different in our choices, my brother and I each chose someone who was not like our extremely dysfunctional and abusive parents. My sister chose a cheater/abuser the first time (like mom) and a depressed/apathetic one currently (like dad).

She and some other friends have said that I'm just lucky. I don't think so. It was very much a choice! Even though I had not yet begun to come to terms with my childhood, I did know what I wanted for a spouse and what kind of father I wanted for my future children!! I think it's often an easy solution or opportunity to jump into a relationship that's similar to what we grew up with, but that it still comes down to choices. It's a very interesting topic I think and my friends and I have enjoyed many a conversation ourselves!!!

KPW.....congrats on the big 25!!! :laugh: B)

We just celebrated 17 this summer and our oldest has her sweet 16 next month.....my goodness am I ***really*** getting that old?????? ;):laugh:

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/31 21:47

Thanks Grizz. Just so you know... that was back in March.. Working on 26 now!

Bad News re: the Roloff family. I just stumbled on something accidentally..

Apparently there was an accident at the farm on Saturday and Jacob was hurt badly as was a family friend. Seems the pumpkin catapult malfunctioned or something and Jacob got hit in the face. He is in serious condition but expected to make a full recovery.

Here is a link.. I hadn't been at the TLC site..but there supposedly is a statement by Matt there about the incident.

<http://www.tvenvy.com/index.php/tvenvy/article/little-people-big-world-star-injured-10300910/>

On further looking at the article.. Sounds like they were both treated and released. I guess it could have been alot worse..

I wonder if he'll keep the pumpkin launcher now?

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/10/31 21:54

Here is a link to the pertinent page at TLC.

http://tlc.discovery.com/fansites/lpbw/jacob_news.html

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/11/01 13:31

OMG.....but I'm so glad to hear that he's already home and recovering nicely. How very scary!

These kind of incidents remind us all to hold our kids a little bit closer and cherish those little moments!!!

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/11/01 13:35

Does anyone believe in premonitions? On one of the previous episodes they were showing Matt and Molly on a tractor/bush hog. Molly was riding on the side of the tractor not in the seat. I thought that was very dangerous. Those bush hogs are lethal. I have known several people during my life who were killed by falling off and under a bush hog. It will cut you to pieces. I was quite concerned when I saw it, but, then never thought about it again.

If you get the chance to see that episode, check it out. I guess there are bound to be accidents when you live on a farm.

Post edited by: Debby, at: 2006/11/01 18:25

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/11/01 16:33

I remember one episode last season where Zach and his dad were out doing something.. Maybe heading to an LPA event. But they were in the car...and clearly Zach didn't have his seatbelt on.

I do remember seeing Molly riding on the side of the bushhogging machine.

I guess that is what they used to do in the old days. I remember when cars didn't even have seatbelts. I used to ride in some sort of seat that just hooked over the front seat.. and infants used to ride in flimsy little babyseats that people would just sit in the seat unsecured.

It took me years to get my parents to use their seatbelts. It finally took the risk of fines for them to get in the habit..

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/11/13 13:17

I saw on the latest shows but I think I missed one too. The one I saw was about Matt erecting the zip line on their property at the farm.

Anyway, could Amy throw this man a bone once in awhile? I'm referring to when one of the son's doesn't tell his dad about an out of town trip he is going on. Apparently Matt was hoping his son would be there to help with the erection of the zip line.

I knew from the first word that Amy would side with the child over her husband. She always, sides with anyone over Matt. Even Matt said to her face, "I knew you would not side with me on this." Then the kid gets sassy and tells his Dad, "There is no way you can prevent me from going." I cringe when I hear stuff like that. Right or wrong, that is out of line for a child to tell a parent. I get the feeling Amy enjoys it when the kids verbally attack their Dad.

In previous post, I have defended that house which is a pig sty. But what is going on? It gets messier and messier. I mean, Amy is not working during the time that was filmed and the kids had just started school. What is the deal? How

do they find anything?

Post edited by: Debby, at: 2006/11/13 13:22

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/11/13 13:35

I Totally agree with you about the disrespect of the children. It is not healthy for children see and be involved in such discord, even it is truly minor in their marriage. Parents need to excuse the children, come to a compromise and THEN inform the kids of the decisions and back each other up.

But I CAN see where Amy is beyond frustrated with Matt and so doesn't even want to give him a break at all. He bought a CAR while she was gone!!! And while I don't think it was a bad thing in and of itself.....it was very disrespectful to Amy to do that while she was gone.....and the kids saw that too.

So I do think the kids see the negatives of both parents, especially when they're highlighted on the show!!! And that they can get a balanced view of the two of them, and even see themselves and adjust their own attitudes sometimes.

As for the house.....on one hand, I'm a homeschooling mom with volunteer "jobs" and health issues and a tiny house, and messy kids and hubby.....so I can sympathize. On the other hand, my house is NOT that bad and I do work at it. But I know many who have just given up because they choose not to deal with that issue and focus on others. I can't judge that, but I can hope she can also get a balance between fanatically clean to the neglect of family and just a mess that nobody tries to organize.

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/11/13 14:32

That must have been one of the new shows I missed. I didn't see him buy the car. My dad used to do that and I know it drove my mom crazy. In fact he still does it. If it's a big ticket item, then it should be discussed in advance. I agree with you on that. It's just that I get the feeling that no matter what approach Matt takes, he can't win with Amy. That's just my take of it.

I still enjoy the shows. I hope they all watch the show so they can see how they come off on camera.

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/11/14 03:07

I'm with ya there Debby.....it can be so enlightening to see/hear yourself on tape. I do hope they can make some positive changes. I am certainly never going on t.v.!!!! ;)

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/12/28 17:07

Grizz, since we discussed the issue of Matt buying the car when Amy was out of town, I saw the show again. Matt did actually tell Amy that he was planning to purchase that VW before she went on her trip. He also told her he was going to buy another vehicle, (something for the farm, I think) He never bought that vehicle though.

Did any of you see the season finale and the preview for the show coming on in March? It shows the accident on the pumpkin farm in which Jacob and a family friend are injured. It's very high drama.

I love that family, but, the safety violations on that show are too numerous. I don't know what they are thinking about. Any person in their right mind should have known that the pumpkin sling was an accident waiting to happen.

I'm glad everyone turned out okay. My nieces and I are thinking about taking a trip out to the Roloff farm next fall to visit the pumpkin farm. We will steer clear of any safety hazards. LOL. My younger neice has a crush on Jeremy. She's 14 years old. He is pretty cute, but, needs to work on his manners.

I will also add that the last few episodes really ticked me off. Those kids, especially the twins, are so disrespectful to their father. What makes it worse is that often times when they speak disrespectfully, their mother defends or even joins in with her own sarcasm. They say things to him such as "Dad, just shut up!" or "You can't tell me that, You don't know how to discipline me!" Could this talk be staged for tv? How could Matt and Amy tolerate it in real life?

I know these children attend a private christian school. I also attended this type of school when I was a teen. I am surprised that they allow them to continue to be students and act so disrespectfully to their parents on tv, even while wearing the school's t-shirt on the show.

The more Jacob acts out by not following family rules and by destroying property, the more they praise him. I don't know, maybe it's just me, but, I think they need Nanny 911. LOL.

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2006/12/29 02:42

I hear ya, Debby!! I was so unhappy at the twins' pure nastiness toward their father.....that is not appropriate.....they have nothing even close to abusive or evil parents!!! YUK....I'd also be so embarassed as a parent to see that.

I was livid about the many safety violations.....it comes with the territory of the field I'm in, but still.....it's so frustrating for me to see so many "preventable" situations! I'm not saying to wrap the kids up in cotton and not let them breathe.....but there is a balance that can be had!!

This doesn't mean I don't love the show.....of course I'll watch it. I do enjoy learning about different parenting and how issues can be faced. And the drama.....oh yes, the drama.....that's why MY family would never be filmed.....too boring!!! :P ;)

We have talked about visiting there on our trip back to Montana. Perhaps if we go out to the coast from there.

Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by KPW1956 - 2006/12/29 09:22

If you saw the finale episode, then you saw the dilemma they had when the farm was packed to capacity... They had to turn people away. Matt didn't want people just parking the cars and walking into the farm... and resorted to calling the police when some guy ignored him. They finally decided to shut down admission and put a sign up to come back another day. I'd think with the popularity of the show... alot of people have the same thoughts...of visiting! It does look like a neat farm.

About the twins... Most 16 year olds pop off at their parents at times.. I've seen them pop off at their mom too.. But she lets them have it and cuts it off quick.. Mom and Dad should back each other up... and if Amy has some issues on Matt's parenting style.. (I think he can be a little demanding too!) She should address that to Matt himself and outside of the ears of the kids.. They should present a united front.. especially with kid issues and discipline issues..

Much of the falls episodes were filmed over the summer.. I noticed the finale episode was mixed... It had some pre Jeremy haircut at the soccer tryouts...and then we skip to October during the fall activities.. So obviously they edit the most dramatic things..

They appeared to want to learn from their filming experiences.. They generally seem to be a typical family (warts and all!) With kids who seem to be generally good kids..who act out of frustration at times.. The older boys seem to be required to do alot of stuff around the farm at times.. I know with the preparations for the farm opening... they seem like they pitch in when they have to... and seem quite handy. I was thinking about the confidence they had... operating the machinery and quite a few other things that growing up there instilled in them. Their grandfather helps alot and he seems to be quite handy.. They've got alot of job skills already... Me I'm a bit too fanatical with being overprotective... and now that my kids are young adults.. I could have probably done a better job, giving them a fuller scope of

experiences. They are totally 'green' in so many areas...

I agree about the safety things.. I think Matt tries.. but he's had to resort to the boys doing his heavy work. Having the camera's around probably at least gives them extra eyes.. and you'd think they'd speak up if they saw them doing something overly dangerous..

The other week when the twins were moving wood or something,... Jeremy blamed Zach for the problem.. but I thought Jeremy was going way too fast for the conditions.. Zach lost the trailer..

Amy did pay Matt a huge compliment on one of the last episodes... I thought she admitted her skepticism..and saw the wonderful turnout...and said he done good... Of course I'm not quoting verbatim... but that was the gist I got.. Of course this compliment was in a face to camera shot... Hopefully it was an encouragement to Matt.

I do think they are trying to live and learn from this whole reality experience.. I just hope that they can discern when too much exposure begins to be a problem for the kids/family. And not be so drawn to the money aspect that it takes precedent over the good of the families well being..

I know I sure couldn't do it... (have cameras chronicling my day to day life... scrutinizing everything!) (but then again it's hard to refute the evidence..when you see your lives as others see you!
So that is a good thing... I guess.)

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Re:Little People, Big World on TLC

Posted by Debby - 2006/12/29 13:15

I agree that it takes big time nerve to have cameras follow you around inside your home and have it aired on national television.

But for some reason, I don't think the Roloffs are that intimidated by it. First of all the kids bascially say anything they want to even if it is inappropriate to their parents. I think that it is the parent's fault as you don't see the boys talking back to any other adult...and they obviously could care less how messy their house is. NOT that it is a crime to have a messy house. Goodness knows mine has been a real mess lately, but, if I knew I was going to be on television, I would ensure that it was tidy. Of course, if the house was always tidy, what would I have to drive me crazy? Besides, it makes me feel better about mine.

Over Christmas I was watching the show with a number of my family members. Some of them had never seen the show before. The first thing they said was "OMG they need to clean up their house." I thought it was funny that they would say that even before commenting on them being dwarfs. LOL.

I still love the show and hope it continues. I think they are real quality people. They show more courage in their dailey life than I think I could muster.

I hope my neices and I are able to go to the farm next year. I hope he will keep the farm going even if the show goes off the air, although it may be difficult to get help after the boys go to college.

Post edited by: Debby, at: 2006/12/29 13:17

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