

## EP-3 - In Those Times

**Pau:** Hello my people! They are listening to the podcast *En Esos Tiempos*. Hello. I'm Pau and I'm one of the co-hosts of the *En Esos Tiempos* podcast.

**Susy:** Hello. I'm Susy, Pau's mom, and I'll be co-hosting with Pau for today's episode.

**Pau:** Today's episode is called Tips for Parents with Two or More LGBTQ Children.

Before getting into today's topic, we first want to say that the *En Esos Tiempos* podcast is part of Somos Familia's programming. Somos Familia focuses on supporting LGBTQ Latinx people and their families. To learn more about the *En Esos Tiempos* podcast, view past episodes, and support the work of Somos Familia, [subscribe to this podcast](#) and visit the Somos Familia website at [www.somosfiliabay.org](http://www.somosfiliabay.org). The episodes of *En Esos Tiempos* will cover various historical topics and events related to LGBTQ issues, race, ethnicity, the intersection of identities, culture, family and more - how the old days were and what the new times are like.

Alright, let's start with today's episode of *En Esos Tiempos*. In today's episode, we will talk about tips for parents with two or more LGBTQ children. All parents want the best for their children, but providing support is not always easy, especially if you are the parent of an LGBTQ child. For many LGBTQ youth, giving that news to their parents is the scariest part of coming out. The family is key, in fact experts say that LGBTQ adolescents who have the support of their families become happier and healthier adults. You don't need to be an expert to understand your child entirely and you also don't have to be an expert on everything LGBTQ to let them know that you care. There is no right or wrong way to express love, just be present and open. Even if you are not sure what to say, saying something so simple as: "I am here for you, I love you and I will support you - whatever happens," can mean a lot for your child.

And now my mother is going to tell us a little about what tips she has for parents with two or more LGBTQ children and how the experience was for her.

Ma, for you as the mother of a trans person, a trans child, and a gay child, how was it for you to find out about that? How did you feel?

**Susy:** Hi. Well then, when my son told me I already had an idea. But I was surprised anyway because it is not the same that I had an idea that my son would declare it to me, right? He told me: "Mommy, this happens to me and I am transgender." So I took it to heart, I thought it was no longer going to be the same affection that he had for me. Like it was going to be different, but I really liked it because my son invited me to a coffee and we talked face to face. And well he said no. He told me: "No mommy. My affection for you does not change, it will always be the same. They are different affections towards my wife and towards you." I felt better. But yes, I did feel a change of affection. I said: "He won't love me the same anymore. It will be different with me." But no. It is quite the opposite because my son invited us to a group. Those groups are very good, very beautiful, because they help you as a mother to understand better - the changes that they have.

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And I really liked it and I was a little prepared when I heard the news that my son Leo Junior is gay. But I was already prepared a little bit, but anyway I was so surprised because he didn't do it like Pau. He used to hide and talk to his partner in secret and I was surprised. And I said: "Why are you closing the door? What do you not want us to hear?" Then his dad surprised him and found out and confronted him. And his father said to him: "Son, what's wrong? Do you have a partner? Do you have a boyfriend?" That's when he answered yes, but he didn't tell me. His dad told me. My husband told me. Then he came to the room and said yes. But even though we were already in the talks for you, it surprised me a lot and continues to surprise me.

**Pau:** And why does it still surprise you even today? Do you think my situation as a trans person was easier for you? Or when I told you compared to my brother when you found out he was gay?

**Susy:** OK, mijo. Look with Leo I am still surprised because he has not been very expressive like you. He doesn't trust us and I don't know why. Because he is very affectionate with me. He has always been very affectionate and me, well, it still hurts a little bit because he did not trust enough to tell me.

Once he invited me to McDonald's and he said hey, mommy, we were talking about this and that. So I told him something about my brother's son and he just said: "And why don't you agree that he's like that - gay?" So I say: "Oh, it's that my brother was surprised. He already accepted it. My brother already accepted it." And he was not honest with me on that topic or he didn't say anything to me.

Then in the way that I realized, I did not like it. I did not like it because, "Wow", I said: "Why was my son not honest with me, like Pau?" "Mommy, I want to talk to you. I feel this. I have my partner, I have a boyfriend." He had been with Dillon for about four months. So then I said: "What is it? Why does my child not trust enough to tell us? And why did his dad have to realize like this?" And then no. I didn't like it but I took it more or less because we were already in the conversation that Pau was leading us. It has helped us a lot. And well, to date I understand it more, I already accept it. And why is it possible, he is a good person and I have always told the three of you that if they are happy, I am more.

**Pau:** Do you think ...? Because I personally believe that he does trust you. It's just difficult, right? Telling people that you really love who you are. And for me it was difficult but I decided to tell you in person directly. But it is not the same for every person. Each person has their way of telling those they love and how to express it to them. For Leo, unfortunately, that's how you found out. That doesn't mean he didn't want to tell you directly, right? Maybe that interaction you had at McDonald's, he didn't like it or didn't give him the confidence he needed to tell you directly. And maybe it wasn't the right time. And you caught him and maybe he didn't want you to find out like that. But that's the way things turned out, right? And the rest is history. And the good thing is that you continue to support him and that you love him and Leo is still Leo.

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So all of this has been a process for you and my dad from when I came out as a trans person to when Leo came out as a gay person. And there have been many changes. You have gone to support groups and have learned more about these issues. What advice do you as a mother have for other parents with two or more LGBTQ children?

**Susy:** Give them more communication, full support. That they feel comfortable, that they have the confidence to talk to us, to say what they feel and how they feel. And we show them as mothers that we love them very much, despite it all we love them and no matter what they do or who they are. And that they accept themselves as they want to accept themselves. And more than anything, the groups, as we are right now, have helped us a lot in the orientation and talks that we have had and experiences that we have heard. And as those experiences we also draw on our children - to understand them. And to love them very much so that they always feel proud of who they are and what they do because they are our pride and we love them very much.

**Pau:** What kind of resources do you think are important to have in the community to create more support for parents with LGBTQ children?

**Susy:** Well then, support groups in Spanish. My husband and I really liked them because we understood. And that there is more space to make more groups so that parents realize it and have the support to feel confident with their children. And activities, fairs to have a table and distribute flyers to parents. Because there are many parents who do not know. They do not know how to take the issue of their children, change, so that they learn to listen and understand them so that they go to these groups in Spanish. I really liked them very much. At first I said to my son: "Hey. Son. I don't have time." But no. You have to take time for them to see that they are supported by their parents. Because they are going to say: "Oh well, then how do you want to learn? How do you want to support us, if you don't understand us? You don't know what change is like." So you have to participate in these groups more than anything because they are only in Spanish. And we thank the people who collaborate to listen to us and give us a space.

**Pau:** Thank you, ma, for sharing your experience and your advice with other parents who are going through something similar. My advice to parents is to take a team approach. Providing support can be challenging at times. It's okay to be stressed, confused, or surprised, but don't back down when they need you most. Some parents are so overwhelmed that they just put their hands up and say, "I can't do it." It's a lot for parents to process, but don't leave your child high and dry. Remember that your child is having a harder time with this than you and your duty as a parent comes first. If you have difficulties, seek help. Team up with a doctor, school counselor, close family members, even community organizations like Somos Familia or your local LGBTQ center, if you have trouble doing it alone. But remember that you are not alone.

Before closing, I think it's time to hear the horoscopes with Susy.

**Susy:** Hi. Now we continue the horoscopes with Susy for the whole week.

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- Aries: It has a full moon, a new moon. And it is helped with Venus. Venus is a planet from space that helps you have all your positive stars. Let's go, Aries.
- Taurus: You are also with Venus. Venus is going to be with all the signs this week. And Venus is a very good sign to have good stars in all the signs. But Taurus, this week watch out for jealousy, Taurus. OK you will be very jealous with everything so be careful.
- We continue with Gemini. Geminis will have much peace in this week, inner peace, and great abundance. You are going to do well this week, Gemini, and the next.
- Cancer you are going to have a lot of action. You are going to be very active. You have three very good days, Cancer.
- Leo, you are going to shine. You're going to shine a lot, Leo. And be careful what you say and what you think. You go at your own pace, Leo. Don't run, ok? Walk and everything will be fine for you.
- Virgo be careful with your bones, Virgo. You're going to have a bit of pain and take care of yourself, ok? More than anything you are going to have bone problems, but you are going to move on, ok? Give it a try, Virgo.
- We continue with Libra, you will have a lot of joy, a lot of economic changes. You have an increase in your job, a salary increase. You are going to receive money that you were waiting for, ok?
- We will continue as Scorpio. Learn to use the moment to speak precisely, Scorpio. At a good time, don't rush. Don't say things just to say them. You have to wait for the right moment, ok? Scorpio. And you have a very good memory. Scorpio has a very good memory.
- Sagittarius you have very good vibes, very good vibes for you. All the things that you are going to do, you are going to do well because you are a person who thinks about things before doing them and that is very good, ok?
- We continue with Capricorn. Capricorn, you are very thoughtful these days - like do I or don't I?. Do not overthink things, do them, Capricorn, do them, action, ok?
- Aquarius. After Capricorn comes Aquarius. Aquarius you're going to be like do I or don't I - pensive. But no, you, Aquarius, give it a try and you're going to get a surprise these days, okay?
- We continue with Pisces. Pisces we close with a flourish with Pisces. Pisces is very active. You want to do everything at once, but no. One by one, Pisces, ok?

Those were Susy's horoscopes. See you next time because I have questions, ok?

I am going to share with you which signs are compatible with other signs and which signs are not compatible with other signs. I have that question. Bye.