



RIZA: EMBRACE LIFE'S SURPRISES

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

A test of true strength is the ability to weather storms and be open to life's many unexpected surprises.

I'm Riza, a Senior Manager at Accenture in Cebu.

I have two beautiful sons, a very loving husband, plus an awesome career at Accenture.

But in 2015, I was confronted with major personal challenges--my eldest son had an epileptic seizure.

I remember that day clearly. Just 30 minutes after he left for school, I got a call from the nurse saying that he had to be brought to the E.R.

It was definitely one of the scariest moments in my life.

And then, just two and a half weeks after my son's seizure, my youngest—who was two at that time—was identified to be on the autism spectrum.

We had to adjust to our two sons' needs. We needed to spend more time with our youngest son to make sure he accomplishes the activities prescribed by his doctor.

We also needed to temper our eldest son's active personality, so he doesn't hurt himself or engage in activities that are too strenuous.

I had to talk to my bosses because I needed to work remotely from time to time to take care of my sons. It is a long-term thing that we have to manage.

I'm very thankful that there is a company that is very supportive of working moms.

I was able to work remotely, I can deliver the outcomes expected of me, and, at the same time, I can see to my kids' unique needs.

Having the flexibility and support in my work environment has enabled me to be around for my family.

Now, one and a half years after the diagnosis, our youngest already smiles a lot, can make eye contact, and engage with people. He's developing really well and I am very glad.

Being able to achieve your professional goals and, at the same time, be a great mom to your kids, that, I believe, is defying boundaries.