

Meet Marianna O'Sullivan

SOPHIA AND LEONARDO'S MUM

A deep passion for beautiful clothing inspired this busy mum to open an ethereal childrenswear boutique, in one of Sydney's prettiest neighbourhoods.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY Ian MacPherson

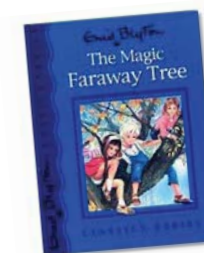


Marianna presents some must-have classics in her charming boutique, named simply, Arabella.



I couldn't live without

Access to the very best produce. I have a favourite provider of most food items.



What we're reading at the moment

The Magic Faraway Tree
by Enid Blyton.



When I have 30 minutes to myself

I like to lay down and read the newspapers.

LMNOP: How were you inspired to start your business?

MO: Since I was very young, I had a deep passion for beautiful clothes of a very high quality. As a little girl growing up in Northern Italy, my mother always ensured that I looked very smart.

LMNOP: What's your biggest seller?

MO: Bonpoint a beautiful French label. Equally Il Gufo, Caramel Baby and Child are very good sellers.

LMNOP: What advice would you give to other mums trying to start a business?

MO: Don't try and be the perfect mother and run a business at the same time. You can be a very good mother and run a successful business if you are highly organised, but it's not easy!

LMNOP: How do you juggle your business with motherhood?

MO: I am at the boutique whilst my eldest child is at school. My son is looked after by a nanny until lunch time each day. I ensure that each minute I spend with my children in the afternoon is well spent, given how precious time is.

LMNOP: What's your biggest challenge as a mum?

MO: To keep everyone happy. This is called 'The impossible deliverable.'

LMNOP: What do you, Sophia and Leonardo like to do together?

MO: We love to just stay at home and bake or cook something special.

LMNOP: The best piece of advice you'll ever give to your children?

MO: Be honest and diligent.

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