

Teenage Mother

Having a child at a young age is not a mistake it is a blessing. Being a young parent has its advantages and disadvantages. Just because someone becomes a young parent does not mean you have to give up on life.

Bringing a child into this world is an amazing thing; it brings a lot of joy into a mother's life. When I got pregnant, I went through many adversities. I left my house with my ex boyfriend, he use to "sweet talk" me, telling me he would change his habits and be a better person. He was always in and out of jail, he was on drugs and he would drink a lot. He would encourage me not to go to school, my parents would drop me off, he would be there to pick me up, and we would leave together. I was doing really well in school before that, my parents gave me all the support to continue school and go into college. It all went down hill when he would tell me to leave with him if I "loved "him. I left my house three times with him, during the third time it was the longest I had left. I was gone for two months; I did not go to school during those two months. My family did not know or hear from me during those two months. When I was living with my baby's father, we had problems. He did not want to work or do anything during that time. All he would do was drink with his cousin, and that caused him to be violent with me. When he would do drugs and drink he would always verbally fight with me. At the end, it did not work out between us. During the time that I was living with him, I was surprised that his bad habits did not rub off on me. I was able to break free from his influences. Thankfully I went back to live with my parents and I enrolled back into school. I had gone through a lot of trouble, but thought things would get better. When I had just went back home, I

was going through a lot of stress with my parents and the father of my child. They were both trying to influence me to do things one way and he was trying to manipulate me to do things his way. It was bad enough that I ended up in the emergency room; I almost had two miscarriages.

After the two scares of the miscarriages, I started Independent Studies through the Cal- SAFE Program. I would get contracts and units of homework and then turn them in every week. I was on Independent Studies through out most of my pregnancy. Then the summer came around and I went to summer school; I was given the chance to do the rest of my credits there. Therefore, I focused my energy and completed my course work early by September 9, 2011. By this time, I had already had my baby, and my Baby's Father would still come around, but not for good. He would come around and would just insult me and say dumb things. The reason why he would say these things was because, I had told him I did not want anything to do with him, if he was not going to change and be a man to take responsibility of his daughter. Luckily, for me I got the opportunity to spend a lot of my time with my daughter to strengthen our bond and attachment. I was happy with my choice of either staying at my old high school or enrolling into the Cal- SAFE Program. Everyone is much more helpful and supportive in the Cal- SAFE Program.

My teachers in the Cal- SAFE Program encouraged me to graduate early so I can care for my daughter and spend as much time with her as possible before I begin my journey in college. Now that I am done with Cal-SAFE Program, they are still helping me out to enroll into college. Without their help, I would not have known what to do. The

Early Head Start Program has also; they given me support and taught child development skills to improve my parenting my skills. Since I have both the Cal-SAFE Program and the Options Early Head Start Program supporting me I have realized that I am better off now than before I enrolled into both programs.

By having said all that, yes, I am a teen parent and I do not regret having my child. Having a child at a young age has helped me realize that I could have made wiser choices, but I did not. I have been told that just because I am a teen Parent my life is over. Not true, my life is just beginning and I have a lot ahead of me. For many of us becoming young parents means that we have someone precious in our lives to look out for and love forever. Kids are blessings not mistakes. Despite all the adversities, I love my daughter and would not change having her for anything in this world. I maybe a single mother but I have my daughter to care and, love and move on forward with my life. I have all my goals set and I am ready to achieve them. My main goal is to continue my education and give my daughter the best future I can give her. I want her to be proud of her Mother.

I have enrolled into college and I am scheduled to begin in the fall semester of 2012. I am excited because I am taking the steps to improve myself. I am planning to major in Nursing and I am ready to accept future challenges as I advance in my life's journey.