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## Growing Up with Kiana

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# Growing up with Kiana

By: Brisa Garza

The love of my life is four years old. I could not imagine my life without her, and I cherish her so much. Although being her mother is my biggest accomplishment, I am only twenty years old, and it hasn't always been a smooth road.

I was fifteen years old and a sophomore in High School. I had been dating her father for a long time, and I honestly felt that I loved him. As you know, I got pregnant and was forced to choose what to do for my unborn baby. Abortion and adoption were completely out of the question. I knew I had to take full responsibility for this child, and I was one hundred percent willing to step up to the plate, with or without her father.

Telling my parents was the hardest thing I have ever done. I was so scared to physically speak up and tell them. I actually wrote them a letter, left it on the kitchen table, and went to school. I was six months pregnant, and they had no idea. I was petite and barely showing. To everyone's dismay, I had been feeling a baby move around inside of me. Sitting in my second class of the day, I heard the intercom alert my teacher.

"Will you please send Brisa Garza to the office? Her mother is here to check her out."

"Of course, she will be there in just a second."

My heart sank. How could I face my parents? I quickly gathered my things and met my mom at the office. "Is it true?"

"I think so, Mom."



PHOTOS OF BRISA AND KIANA

We went to the store, purchased a pregnancy test, and proceeded to go home where my father was waiting for us. That was the longest car ride ever. We arrive to my house; the look on my dad's face was indescribable. I am his only daughter, and I have three brothers. I really disappointed him.

"Brisa, you are 15 years old; you are too young to be a mother."

"Dad, I know I've upset you, but everything happens for a reason."

All he could do was cry. It broke my heart to see my father so upset. His main concern was that I had no prenatal care for so long. He was nervous about how the baby was doing. I quickly scheduled an appointment at the doctor the next day, got every test done, and started taking vitamins. I was scared but determined to stay in school and make my parents proud, despite making them grandparents at such a young age. I hate to say it was a mistake, because my daughter is a blessing, but I definitely was not prepared for motherhood. At what age is anyone ever "ready?"

On Wednesday, January 9, 2008, I gave birth to a healthy seven pound eight ounce baby girl and named her Kiana. My life changed forever. I no longer had myself to worry about but this tiny human who constantly needed me. It's insane and chaotic how life changes so fast. I was forced to grow up and take on the title of being someone's mother.

In a way, I feel like I am growing up with her. I hope one day I am blessed to be someone else's mother, and I honestly think that's what I was made for. In the meantime, I will finish college and become a kindergarten teacher and appreciate everyone else's kids! Becoming a mother at such a young age impacted my life in a huge way. It made me strong and independent, and I hope Kiana appreciates everything I have sacrificed to be the best for her. We met a little sooner, but I get to love her longer.