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Learning New Things

By Jakota Ford

Learning new things can be a very exciting, yet scary experience. One of the hardest things I've ever had to do was learn how to grow up. When I was a child, I had to grow up a lot sooner than the rest of my friends did. I became pregnant at the age of 15. The main things I figured out during my journey of becoming an adult at the age of 15 with a child are to maintain a job, staying in school, and always doing what is best for your child.

When I found out I was pregnant I realized that I would have to get a job. I couldn't just get a summer job and blow it off when school came around like the rest of my friends could. I had to maintain the job so I could provide for my child. I found out that there's not many places that will hire a teenager without a GED or high school diploma, and considering I was still in high school, I had not yet received either of those. So, I took what I could get at the time and kept my head up as I finished high school.

Staying in school was probably one of the biggest life lessons I have learned growing up. While I was hunting for a job I realized that I couldn't get very far without education, and with a child on the way all I could think about was I good job. Since I found out that I was pregnant I have wanted nothing more than to give my daughter the life she deserved. The life I never had. So, I stuck to it, as there were good and bad times, and I finally graduated high school. That was when I knew I had to go to college and better myself so I could give her everything she wanted.

Another one of the biggest things I have learned about growing up as a pregnant teenager, is always do what's best for your child. No matter what the circumstances, always do what will benefit your child. Because of my daughter I have graduated high school, enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard, and am now in college. So many people these days start to believe that they cannot make it and turn to drugs or down other wrong paths such as that.

Aside from everything I have been through, I chose the path I took and I have made my own decisions. I believe that my daughter changed me for the better and every day I live to better myself for her. Yes, I had her at a very young age, but she has made me who I am today and I am so thankful she was put into my life. Growing up is a very scary experience especially when your doing it with a child on your own, just remember to always keep your head up.