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# School Daze

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# School Daze

By DeShawana Smyth

In my younger years, I knew it all. I didn't need school. The things they taught were useless in real life. I left school and went into the real world, soon learning that I knew nothing. I got my G.E.D. and decided to start college. I was so far behind and could not figure out how to balance school and the rest of my life, so I dropped out of college. I soon married, had children, and regretted leaving school. I had to try again and enrolled in a few classes at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Sayre, Oklahoma. In doing so, I have to take my son to daycare, I spend less time with my family, and I cannot give my house the attention it needs.

I have never had to put either of my children in daycare. My husband and I would work opposite shifts or find a friend or family member to watch our kids. My oldest son, Thomas, started all-day kindergarten in August of 2012, and I started college classes that same month. I had some discussion with my family, and we came to the conclusion that my grandmother



could watch my youngest son, Jason, while I was in class. This only lasted my first semester. For my second semester of college classes, I would have to find someone else that could watch my son. I took

on more work for my second semester and realized that I needed a more stable type of babysitting. Family and friends weren't always there when I needed them. So my husband and I started looking into local daycares. I was not thrilled with the idea. I didn't like the fact that a complete stranger would be taking care of my baby boy (mind you, he is 3 ½ years old). I think Jason was more excited about daycare than I was. He went running in, saw the other kids and a movie on the television, and yelled "Bye Mom!" as he was running away from me. It has become easier for me, and he is learning so much!

With this new schedule, I also get less time with my family as a whole. Once I do get home, my time is usually spent doing my homework, or studying for my next test. I had no idea that my course load was going to have so much home-stantly work! I am constantly having to tell my family, "We will as soon as I get done with this!" when they ask me to play with them, or watch a movie with them, and that is heart-breaking for me. My husband has had to take on more as the father of our children, while I have my head stuck in a book, or my laptop. My husband gets to watch movies with our kids, while I am writing a paper. I just have to keep reminding myself that it is all for the better in the end.



Also, as a result of my new schedule, my house gets less of my attention. Once my homework is done, and once I have studied enough for the day, I want to

spend what little time I have left of the day with my family. The last thing I want to do is waste that time on cleaning my house! I'm not saying that I don't clean our house at all; I just don't do any deep cleaning as a result of going back to school. I often leave things like dusting to a later time. My cabinets are unorganized. My fridge is in desperate need of a good cleaning. All of which is left in my husband's capable hands. Lately the dishes pile up in the sink until one of us has the time to put them in the dishwasher. My ceiling fans have an inch of Oklahoma dust on each blade. The kitchen table has become a "catch-all" to everything we don't have time to put away. My laundry gets done, but does not get put away properly. It sits in a pile on a chair in the living room and at the foot of my bed. I'm sure it will all get done. The question is when? I guess during spring break I will do some spring cleaning!



Don't get me wrong. I love going back to school! I am learning so much, and I know it will help my family and me in the long run. As for now, there are some effects from going back to school. I am neglecting my house, I feel as though I am missing out on time with my family, and I have had to put my trust in a daycare to take care of my son. I know this is all for the best. I just can't wait until it's over!