

My Life As a Teen Mom

by Darlene Paulino

I start my day by waking my four-month-old son, Aidan, and myself at 6:00 a.m. I bathe, feed, and dress my son, and then I pack his bag with diapers, wipes, clothes, and his bottles. After I am done with my son, I sit him in his walker and take him with me to the bathroom so that I can take a shower and get dressed.

After we're ready, we march out the door. Aidan goes to daycare while I am in school. I drop off my son at 7:30 a.m. so that I can be at the bus stop by 8:00 a.m.

In school, the teachers help me get prepared for my GED. I am in class from 9:00 to 2:00, studying math, social studies, reading, writing, and science. Also, case managers help me with my plans for college, housing, and a career.

I pick up my son at 3:15 and go home. I feed him and change him. Later, I put him to sleep and I start cooking a small meal for myself.

In the evening, I usually will watch T.V. with the baby or play with him for a little while. We then go to bed. What will tomorrow be like? The same as yesterday and today.

It makes me mad because there are so many young girls who want to have babies. Many friends that I know don't even use condoms to prevent disease and pregnancy. It is very difficult to take care of a baby, especially if don't have an education or a job.

I don't regret having my son Aidan. I love him 'til death do us part. He is my inspiration, devotion, and focus. He needs a mother that can stand up for him and say, "Present." Also he needs a warm home and a good example. I am his example; that is why I decided to make my life better. I am here to be somebody. I will get my GED and attend college. It does not matter how hard it gets.

Darlene Paulino is currently a GED student at the Crittenton Hastings House in Boston.



List some steps of your day:

1. I wake up at _____ .
2. After I wake up, I _____ .
3. _____ .
4. _____ .