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### 17 and Pregnant

17 and Pregnant. I never intended it to happen but sometimes life does not always go as planned. I was nervous but also confident in myself to know that I was going to be the best mother I would always be, no matter what the circumstances. Yes, I was young and a teen mom, but I would never change it for the world. The nights and days become long sometimes but, in the end, I know it all worth It. It is unfortunate, but I do get a lot of judgment and rude comments from strangers and sometimes even other moms as well. It is sad when you do not know who they are or even when they do not know what you are capable of as a person and as a mother.

Once I became noticeably pregnant, I got a lot of nasty looks, and it felt like wherever I went someone was judging me. For example, one time when I went to a doctor's appointment and they asked me for my date of birth, and I told them my year and it was 2004, they just look up at me right away and were like "oh wow such a young mother you are going to be. I just chuckled it off in my head, but I try to push people's opinion out of my head and not listen to them because a mother can be any age, and everyone has feelings no matter what.

In high school, I got a lot of various kinds of facial expressions that were not the nicest. I lost a lot of people that I called friends at one point because they said I was crazy for having a kid and never showed interest in about me or for my child. like for an example one time they asked me to hang out and it was late at night just to find out they wanted me to sober cab for them, I did not figure it out until they kept asking me to go places with them and they would always just drink and then be like okay I am ready to leave now and I would just sit there by myself question why I even said I would go or why am I being used like this. They always told me they cannot wait till I am unpregnant, for I can be like them, but that was not running through my head. I never wanted to be like the old kayla I wanted to change for me and my family. It got old hearing about it. Ever since I started to distance myself from them, they did not seem to care, they never showed that they were happy for me or exiting for Bryson to be coming. At my baby shower the few that showed up showed up drunk just to say hi and bye. It hurt because they were my friends through all my high school years and that is the way they acted. It embarrassed me because I used to call those people my friends once upon a time. Even my own mother-in-law would always say wow funny how a kid is having a kid. Me and her started to not get along after I got Pregent, but I thought she would understand me the most because she had her first kid at 17 as well. My boyfriend's family always told me I would never be able to succeed in life with a kid because I would fail, and it would be too hard for me to handle but now in life but now I am a mom and full-time college student and a full-time manager. To me I think I have come far from where I started. My mom always told me true colors come out from the people you least expect it to. She also said the people in high school you meet will not always stick with you and threw out your whole life. She said to me it will be okay; you are growing up a little more than they are. I thought about that very deeply but they can do whatever they want because they dint have

responsibility like I do but deep down I know what it feels like to be a young mom and no one can really relate with you but it okay because after a while I met someone that was around my age and was expecting a little girl a day before I was due we became really close and we could relate to a lot of the same things so it felt very comforting knowing I'm not the only one in this position.

At the time I found out I was going to be a mother and started to tell people they got right to the point as if I was going to keep the baby or not and I never thought about aborting my child. I knew once I found out I was Pregnant I could never do that and would never want to. I was so excited to love this child and spoil it, but I hated how the closest people to me thought it was right to tell me what I should do to this child or what they thought was the best for me. It hurt me because they saw how happy and excited, I was. I always told myself growing up I wanted to be a younger mom no age specifically but just younger than the usual mom. I wanted to start my family sooner. People made me think I was crazy for keeping Bryson, but I could never do that to me or the baby that was growing inside of me. Me and the father of Bryson tried so hard not to listen to the outside voices because we knew we were going to be the best for our child and now he is loved more than ever, and we are happy we made this decision. I would do it 10 times over again to feel the love I did right when I gave birth.

Bryson has been my biggest accomplishment so far even though he is only 5 months old they have been the best 5 months of my life. It is crazy how much a child can change your life. I would never change it for the world. I hate to say it but sometimes you have to lose people to meet better ones. It can be hard, but you always have to keep your head up and tell yourself everything will always be all right in the end. A child cannot always define you as a person but to me it does, every mom's parents differ differently and that okay that is what makes all of us different from each other. When he gets older there is a lot more I want to accomplish as a mother and as a person,