

**Topic:** Children as Parents

**Abstract:** It happened to my mom it happened with my older sisters and it happened to me. We all had to be parents as children as children. I did not hate all the responsibility, I think it made me more responsible as I grew into an adult today. My mother was a full time worker and she had to work hard for what we had. My mother got all the help she could get by the help of her children. We are a very close family today.

**Keywords:** Child hood life, responsibility, happy, close as a family, life long lessons, and working together.

I guess it has been a thing of the past it happened to my mom and it happened as I grew up. My mom had to help raise her younger sister at the age of five. As for my sisters and I it was the same for us. We had to help my parents with raising my siblings and that's just the way it was growing up.

When I was a child in kindergarten I remember my older sister always helping my mom raise me. When I had to go to school in the morning my sister was the one getting me up in the morning getting me dressed to go to school. My sister had to do that for my parents because my mom and dad were already at work in the morning. When it came around to it, it would soon be my turn helping raise my two younger brothers I guess it was a cycle.

When my first brother was born I was eight years old. My brother was born with downs syndrum. When my second little brother was born it was two years later and I was ten years old my brother came out with no complications. When both of my brothers were born that's when I became a little mother helping my mom with my brothers like changing pampers and feeding them when ever my mom asked me to help.

By the time I was thirteen I was a part time mom after school. When my brother with downs stated school my two older sisters and I helped each other out. One of them would dress him get him ready and the other one would put him on the bus in the morning. My job was to make sure I was home every day after school by 3:30 pm so I could get him off the bus .I would take care of him till my parents got home. I could never hang out with my friends after school because I had to be home for my brother. It was very convenient that I lived right by my school South Valley I lived in the Gilroy apartments. I did not have to walk too far to get home so I was happy about that.

My youngest brother he was not in school yet he had a full time babysitter that lived right next door to us. When I would get home I would do house chores and try to clean up a little bit before my two little brothers would get home. Every time they got home they both would make more of a mess so I did not want to clean dabble. Once I would get my brother off the bus put him in the house I would go next door and pick up the other little one. I would always have some kind of snack ready for them to eat. After they would eat they both would play with their toys and watch cartoons.

Every summer I was a full time mom mostly to my brother that had downs because taking care of two kids full time was a whole lot of work. My brother with downs was like taking care of two kids he was a hand full. My brother with downs did go to summer school for about four hours a day. I was the one getting him ready in the morning and feeding him breakfast and putting him on the bus I would see him off to school. Once he would leave I would go clean the house first thing in the morning so I would just get that out the way and be done with it. I would always go back to sleep for a while so I could get some rest before my brother would get home from school. When my brother got home I always had something made

for him to eat. After I would feed him I would take him to the park everyday in the summer so he would get out of the house. He loved the swings I would push him for at least an hour straight.

It was a lot harder with my brother that had downs because he did not learn how to walk in till he was about five years old and he was in pampers till he was about seven years old. My youngest brother with out downs he was out of pampers by the time he was two in a half and he was doing things on his own when he was four. My youngest brother would play with his friends at their house and was talking and doing things. My brother with downs he could not just up and leave he could not even talk and till this day dose not talk we use sign language to let us know what he wants.

When I was thirteen I was cleaning the house taking care of my brothers and making dinner for my family. I also felt like I had to help out a lot because my mom and dad worked so hard. The last thing I wanted was for my mom to come home and have to clean and make us dinner so I just did it for her. When I wanted to make something like enchiladas or lasagna I would just ask my mom and she would right down how to make it and it worked. My food always come out good, my older sisters were always surprised how good my food would come out.

My older sisters would help anytime they could but both of them went to school in Morgan Hill and had after school jobs as long as I can remember. My sisters were a lot older then me so they were always out on the weekends with their friends while I stayed at home. I do remember my oldest sister always taking me shopping with her she would always buy me clothes. She would also take my brothers and me out to golf land or the children discovery

museum. My sister had a car by the time she was seventeen so that's how we got around. My oldest sister was actually the one who taught me how to drive when I was fourteen.

My mom had the weekends off so that was her time to take us all out. She always took us somewhere weather it is to Great America or San Jose to the Chinese park to feed the fish but no matter what she would take us somewhere. My mom has told me she took us out when ever she has had the chance because she knows we have helped her so much and she is very thankful for that. My dad on the other hand just liked to kick back at home and just lounge one his days off.

When I was fifteen I had a lot more freedom I still helped out a lot around the house and with the kids. I had my own car by then I had my dad's old van. I did not care it was a van and neither did my friends we were just happy one of us had transportation. At that age is when I started to party a lot. My mom did give me a lot of freedom by then but she was still strict when she had to be. My mom has always been the enforcer in my family my dad was the one that was the kind one and hardly yelled at us. My dad never could punish us that was my mom's job that's the way it's always been growing up.

I don't have hate for my parents for having me always take care of my two little brothers. I think taking care of my brothers it made me into a responsible person. All my friends at the age of fifteen had their first kids and I thought that was crazy. I had told my self I did not want any kids in till about the age of twenty-five. I always thought that way because my two younger brothers were my kids and that was good enough for me. Out of all my friends only about five of them did not have kids. Those were the girls that I became the closest to because none of us had kids to hold us back if we wanted to go out late night

Me growing up so fast helped me become into a little adult you could say. I still had friends that were about sixteen and their parents were still cleaning their rooms and still washing their clothes. When I would see my friends parents cleaning their rooms I would think to my self, that's crazy whose mom still cleans there room and washes their clothes. Those parents I thought were just setting up their kids for failure and I was right they did. How did their parents ever expect them to be prepared for the real world? I am happy I was brought up the way I was with a lot of responsibility.

I did grow up fast but I had my priorities in order most of the friends I had did not even graduate high school and I did. Most of the friends I had all have about two kids and their oldest child is about eight years old. Me I am pregnant know going on my first child and I am going to be twenty-five.

I am glad I grew up the way I did with major responsibility. I don't want to put my kids threw what I had to go threw but you better believe it I will raise them with the same morels my mom and my older sisters taught me. My sister always told me over and over to stay in school stays in school and do not be like the rest of your friends. All that nagging worked because I think I have done well. Know that I am going to have my first child I want to teach him or her the right ways of responsibilities. I definitely don't want to be cleaning up after them I am going to work them hard the way my mom worked me hard maybe not as hard but to the point where they will be cleaning up around the house.

I look at my family now and my older sisters and I are doing well. My older sister is twenty-nine she graduated from Gavilan College and she became a dental assistant but she is back in school trying to become a radiologists. My other sister is twenty-seven and she to

graduated from Gavilan and she also went to UCLA and became a social worker and now she is at San Jose state and she's going for her masters and both of my sisters still don't have any kids. As for me I am the youngest out of them and I did go to a vocational college straight out of high school in 2003 for about one year for massage therapy and I have been doing that ever since it's been five years. I am in Galvan College trying to do something else now I don't know what yet but I will figure it out. I have always had my family by my side and my mom is very proud of her girls as for my brothers one is in high school and the other one is junior high and both boys are doing well. I LOVE MY FAMILY