



Motherhood . . .

It can mean many things, and our own definition of it is largely defined by our individual experiences. To one person, motherhood might simply mean the act of raising children; to another, motherhood might be what defines them.

Becoming a parent for the first time is a daunting experience for even the most prepared parent. For a teen mom, it can be especially overwhelming and difficult. Teen Parent Connection works to provide young mothers with the resources and support they need to help them nurture their children during the earliest and most vulnerable years.

Please consider celebrating a mother in your life by making a gift to our Mother's Day Campaign. Your contribution supports the work and mission of Teen Parent Connection, and directly impacts young mothers like Kayleigh.

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Meet Kayleigh!

"Before finding Teen Parent Connection, no one ever told me how proud they were of me"



Kayleigh became a mother at the age of 20 after struggling with homelessness and instability in her personal life. On the recommendation of a friend, Kayleigh reached out to Teen Parent Connection. She immersed herself in childbirth education classes and prepared for the birth of her son with a doula. After giving birth to Caiden, Kayleigh continued to work with a home visitor processing post-partum depression, working towards self-sufficiency, and building her skills and self-esteem as a mother. ***"Teen Parent Connection became the family I needed,"*** says Kayleigh.

Four years later and happily married, Kayleigh and her husband became pregnant, and thought they knew what to expect having already gone through the process. But 27 weeks into her pregnancy, Kayleigh suddenly went into labor at work and ended up undergoing an emergency C-section. For the next three months, Kayleigh's newborn son, Carter, remained in the neonatal intensive care unit. Kayleigh had to quickly learn how to nurture her relationship with

Carter – without being able to hold him right away and having to observe hospital COVID-19 restrictions. At the same time, Kayleigh was balancing being a present and engaged mother to her four year old son Caiden - who did not understand why he could only FaceTime with his new baby brother.

When Carter came home, nerves were at an all-time high, due to his detailed medication regimen and the specialist visits he required to continue building his strength. Kayleigh said, ***“I slept on the floor of his room for the first month (of Carter) being home; I was his mom and his nurse”***. Kayleigh continued supporting her young sons as she went through another period of post-partum depression. Kayleigh reached out to Teen Parent Connection for help and began attending post-partum support groups. At these meetings, she was able to connect with other young parents who could relate to what she was going through, and she no longer felt alone in her experiences. With support from the young parent group and her dedicated home visitor, Kayleigh has continued to build her confidence as a mom.

Now, over a year later, Kayleigh beams with pride when she reports that despite the warnings of his doctors, Carter is right on track - meeting the developmental milestones of an average one year old. With continued support from Teen Parent Connection, Kayleigh and her family are excitedly planning for the future - working towards buying their first family home, and giving back to other young parents in the Teen Parent Connection community.

See Kayleigh tell her full story . . .



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For assistance, please contact specialevents@teenparentconnection.org.

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