

## Transcript of Hailey Bartlett Interview

Hailey Bartlett

I'm Hailey and I'm 14 and I'm the mother of Abigayle.

Interviewer

Okay, and tell us Jennifer just taught you a lesson today. Tell us how she has helped Abby and you beginning with your pregnancy?

Hailey Bartlett

She's helped me -- Jennifer has helped me because when I was pregnant and before Abigail got here, she showed me what to expect during my pregnancy and other things. And after Abigayle, like she taught me to know that my body's changing differently and the baby's body is changing differently, developing a lot, and farther along we got. And after Abigayle was here, she showing me the different things to do to help her learn and be a lot smarter as she gets older.

Interviewer

Which is important?

Hailey Bartlett

Yeah.

Interviewer

So does the teaching give you confidence in being a mom and if so, tell me how.

Hailey Bartlett

Learning all this from Jennifer gives me confidence that I know that I can be a good mom and know what to do if there's an emergency and understand how babies are and how they're learning.

Interviewer

So it's very helpful, you feel like it's an extra safety net in a way?

Hailey Bartlett

Yes.

Interviewer

And so tell us what you've learned to do with your baby that you've noticed changes in her? What have you practiced that you've been taught by Jennifer that you've noticed has helped Abigayle.

Hailey Bartlett

Jennifer has taught me that babies can only see black and white and by putting contrasting colors in front of her eyes it will help her eyesight develop. And I

used to put mittens on her hands 'cause she likes to bite her fingers and leave little sores and scratch her face and stuff. So I used to put mittens on, but Jennifer said that puts a block from her learning. So I took them off and I've seen a big difference as I was using different textures of things and I learned that she likes fuzzy blankets.

Interviewer

She likes fuzzy blankets? Awesome. Talk about the challenges of being a young mom with your first baby.

Hailey Bartlett

Some challenges that I have is it's hard that like all summer long I got to spend every day with her and all night with her. But then as soon as school started in August, it got hard because I had to leave her for eight hours a day. I couldn't have her all night. I only could only have her a couple of hours. It was hard to leave her. And it's hard going to school and hearing all the things that my friends can do and I know I could do them, but I have to do them differently and include Abigayle into 'em. And I know that I have to go to school and listen to people talk about me and think of me as a bad person because of something that I did which I know that I'm not a bad person.

Interviewer

So that must be challenging for you then to be in junior high. Do you want to talk about that?

Hailey Bartlett

Usually every day I walk to school and I sit by myself because all my old friends don't talk to me anymore and there's only like one friend that I talk to, and when she's not there I sit by myself because I see other people just glaring at me and I can see them pointing at me and talking about me because they think of me as bad because I made a bad decision.

Interviewer

But you are making a good decision with this program and you seem to have a really good relationship with Abigayle.

Hailey Bartlett

Yeah, and it's helped me out a lot and I've made a bad decision, but I wouldn't take it back. I love her to death and she's just so important to me that I wouldn't take it back.

Interviewer

Maybe bad isn't the right word.

Hailey Bartlett

She's good, but just my choices weren't right.

Interviewer

Right. But you're heading in the right direction. Tell us what you want for yourself and then tell us what you want for Abigayle?

Hailey Bartlett

My dream is to become a math teacher and go and help people that are going through what I've had to go through and show them that if you think positive and you have -- and you know that you could do it, and you have belief then you can always do it. It may be hard at times but it's worth it.

Interviewer

And Abigayle?

Hailey Bartlett

And Abigayle, I want her to grow up and go to college and do what she wants to do, not what other people want her to do. And I want her to see as she grows up, how hard it was for me, and have her not make the same choices that I did. And her understand how hard it could be. And I want her to be nice and respectful and smart to everyone even if they're not the same way back.

Interviewer

Anything else you want to share about your experience as being a first-time mom or the program?

Hailey Bartlett

It gets hard as times and I'm really exhausted, that's why I'm glad that my mom's here to help me because there's times that I just can't do it and I'll get frustrated and I could tell that she understands when I'm frustrated because she gets upset too. And so I can see it and this program is helping me that if I need a break that I can just have my mom watch her for a second or put her in her crib for a minute and just keep the monitor on. And just walk away so I can calm down so it doesn't frustrate her.