

Well, I have finally gone and done it.....I have finally completed my Masters in Education! Six years ago, I was teaching Kindergarten in Winsted, CT and I embarked on the long journey that would be my degree. I was only a few months into my program when I discovered I was pregnant with my first daughter Riley. I went to my advisor in a panic. I explained to her that I was working full time, I had just begun my degree and now I was expecting my first child. I felt overwhelmed and on the brink of tears. I was so relieved when she looked me right in the eye and told me, "Kendra we are all here to help you. You have six years in which to complete your degree requirements and we are going to do whatever it takes to help you get it done." My advisor and I became close friends and she stuck to her word and helped me every step of the way including another pregnancy and the birth of my daughter Ella.

You see I grew up in a family which valued and in fact almost obsessed over, education. My mother and father had my older sister when they were only 19 years old and they did not have the opportunity to go to college. I grew up knowing that not only would I go and get my bachelors but that I would just continue to go to school until I had received a PhD or an MD or I ran out of money, which ever happened first. So this Masters has been a big deal. This May, I received a certified package in the mail. I signed for it, thanked the lady from the post office and felt my heartbeat accelerate as I rushed to open the box which held my diploma. Much to my delight I had also received the Regina Miller Heart of a Teacher Award from the University of Hartford. It had all been worth it.

I go into this summer season and the fall with excitement and energy. We are looking forward to seeing all of our J.A.M. children on September 11th, when J.A.M. resumes and you can bet we will have a tasty breakfast waiting for you! We will send out J.A.M. registrations toward the end of August or you can of course register in person. Nursery care will continue to be provided throughout the summer.

Love and peace,
Kendra