

Taking Care of My Grandchildren

Robabeh Nazemi

BEFORE YOU READ: Did your grandmother help raise you or your children? If you are a grandparent, do you help raise your grandchildren?

I Packed My Bags

I came to the United States because my son and my daughter-in-law needed help with their baby. Both my son and daughter-in-law were working full time. It was hard for them to manage a family and go to work at the same time. They knew they didn't want to put their baby into daycare, so they asked if I could come and help. So I packed my bags and said goodbye to my family in Iran and jumped onto an airplane for a new life.

In the U.S., Everything Was Different

Once I arrived in the U.S., there were a lot of changes for me. Everything was different. I had to adjust to the culture, the food, and the language. It felt like I lost a little bit of my independence. I could not drive or go anywhere by myself because I could not speak the language and did not have a driver's license.

I started to take English classes and then studied for my driver's license. I started to become more comfortable in my new home country.

And the best part of it all, I got to take care of my grandson all day.

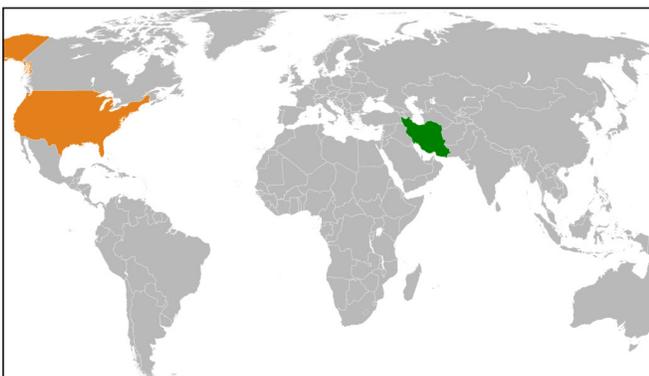
Settling In

Now I have been living in the U.S. for almost 10 years. My grandson is almost 11 now, and he has a sister, who I took care of as well. She is almost 9! My husband joined me here in the U.S. We now live in our own apartment in Seattle. We have our own car, and we can drive wherever we need to. I'm still taking English classes to improve myself and not forget what I have learned.

Overall, the United States is a very good place to live. They take good care of their elderly people. I have no stress here. The medical system is very good compared to my home country. I'm very satisfied with my life. The only problem is that it's hard for me to stay away from my other two children. I do miss my culture and home country sometimes.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. How did the author lose her feeling of independence? And what did she do about it?
2. What does the word "overall" mean in the beginning of the last paragraph?



Share what you see in this map. It is more than 7000 miles from Iran to the U.S.

Robabeh Nazemi is a student at Literacy Source in Seattle, WA. She is from Mashhad, Iran, and she is 68 years young. She has three adult children and three grandchildren.

