



# Did You Ever Drop Out of School?

*Juanita Favela*

## A Regret

I dropped out of school when I was 16 because I got pregnant. I lived with my aunt, and when she found out I was pregnant, she threw me out of the house. I had to go somewhere else, and I couldn't go to school anymore. I only had one year left to graduate. I regret not finishing school.

As the years went by, I didn't go back to school. I felt that I was too old to go back to school. Besides, I was not living with my mom, so I didn't have anyone to take care of my son, and I had to work too.

## Excuses

It is very important to have a high school diploma to find a good job. My mother pushed me to go back to school. But I resisted. When she gave me information about school, I told her lies. I told her that I went to register but the school was closed, or that classes were full, or that I was missing some of the required documents. I feel bad about that. My mother deserved so much better.

## Motivation

It was a struggle, but I finally decided to go back to school. My son was my biggest motivation. For him, I am both a mother and a father. So here I am in school preparing to get my GED and taking English classes as well! I really want to excel and graduate. I want to study sign language and make enough money so that my mom doesn't have to work.

### AFTER YOU READ:

1. Summarize this story in your own words.
2. Read about self-management in the box on the right. In this story and in the other stories in this section, what are some key ways people "manage" themselves?



*Juanita Favela (above in the middle with her mother and son) is a student at Ysleta Community Learning Center in El Paso, Texas. She attends the GED and ESL classes. She is a single mom and lives with her son and her mother. In their spare time, they like to go out for sushi, visit the park, or go to the movies.*

## Self-Management

What is self-management? What are some indicators of self-management you see in this picture? What would you add to this picture as ingredients of self-management?