

I relied on my mom to do everything for me. Whenever I needed something, I'd ask my mom. Whenever I had a question, I'd go to her and she would answer it. My dad would joke with me that I couldn't go 30 seconds without my mom. I was always asking for her.

I relied on her for everything!

Whenever she would tell me to try something myself, I would whine and complain or do whatever I could to make her do it for me. When my parents would talk to me about independence, I used to resist and say, "I don't want to grow up! Growing up means more responsibilities and more work!"

Now, I practice doing things on my own and figuring things out on my own. I'm getting better and better at leading myself. My life looks very different now. Now I am independent! I feel more mature. Even though I still don't like folding my laundry, I do all my own chores and household chores too without being asked and I feel AWESOME!!! Here are some of the things I'm doing on my own now: I make and manage my own learning/work/play schedule. I make my own meals I try new things that I am interested in like climbing trees, roller skating, and skateboarding!

Alia, winning essay in the Let Grow Independence Challenge

