

The things I wish I knew

So recently I saw a post from a baby magazine asking moms to comment what they wish they knew before having kids. And it got me thinking about all the things I wish I knew.

I wish I knew that there was a chance that I would have a disabled child, and that disability wasn't something that just always happened to other people. I wish I knew that no matter how well I plan and prepare, life knocks you sideways sometimes. I wish I knew that my strength, character, beliefs and views would be challenged in every possible way. I wish I knew that I might have kid that would never say a single word, not even 'mommy'. I wish I knew that no matter how much you try to keep it all together, sometimes things just fall apart.

I wish I knew that my heart could break in a way that it would physically hurt. I wish I knew that no amount of tears, 'what-ifs' and 'if-onlys' would ever change a damn thing. I wish I knew how much support I was going to need. I wish I knew that normal was just a word and what I considered to be normal wasn't all that normal. I wish I knew that my child might not be able to walk, instead of spending endless hours trying to get her to crawl. I wish I knew that on really bad days I was going to hate teaching, and the fact that I had a class full of kids walking and talking.

I wish I knew what epilepsy was. I wish I knew that I wouldn't get a good night's rest anytime soon. I wish I knew that some days it would feel nearly impossible to get out of bed. I wish I knew that being angry at the world would only waste precious time. I wish I knew that her first day in grade 1 might not be what I hoped it would be. I wish I knew that there would be days that I would feel so helpless and so worthless. I wish I knew that my hopes and dreams would change so tremendously. I wish I knew how to deal with judgement and disappointment. I wish I knew how much poop I would deal with and will be for a long time. I wish I knew that for the most part I would carry this endless guilt with me for not always being the best I can be. I wish I knew that my child will never become a mother.

But I also wish I knew how much you can love someone and how much you will be willing to sacrifice for their wellbeing. I wish I knew the amount of joy you will experience when you see your kid happy. I wish I knew how much she would inspire me to be a better person. I wish I knew how much she would encourage me to be stronger. I wish I knew that she would steal my heart. I wish I knew that she would teach me to be patient, to be hopeful and to be determined. I wish I knew that I would never stop worrying. I wish I knew that I would have to fight to get her what she deserves. I wish I knew that her life would inspire so many other parents to appreciate the little kids their kids can do. And I wish I knew what it meant to love someone absolutely unconditionally. I wish I knew what it meant to be willing to sacrifice everything for the sake of your child. But most of all I wish I knew whether everything would turn out okay...

