

Hello, my name is Katrina! Yes, like the hurricane. No I was not named after it, I came before! I am a twenty four year old from Southern Ontario now living in Moncton, New Brunswick! I am writing this to share why I have returned to learning.

I grew up being homeschooled by my amazing parents. Primarily my mum taught me, however, my dad helped with math. I had attended pre-k at a school but the teachers observed that I was not learning well in that environment. One of my teachers suggested homeschooling and my parents decided that would be the best solution for me.

I did much better learning at home! I was always done before school let out and because of this, I was able to spend more time playing outside or honing my creativity in the form of singing, dancing, drawing and eventually, writing. I also loved reading and would often stay up late with my head in a book. Don't tell my parents!

I ran into trouble with my schooling around the age of fifteen. I had been going to counselling for a little while and my counsellor started to suspect I had something called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. That was something my parents had wondered about as well. They found an amazing trauma therapist who worked with me for a few years.

I remembered a lot of traumatic events that had happened when I was a child that made it very hard for me to focus on anything. My life felt like it had been flipped upside down. I couldn't sleep well. I developed severe anxiety. My schooling fell onto the back burner as I just couldn't cope with life.

My parents were amazing. They helped me every step of the way. They let me take the time I needed to heal from the memories. But

unfortunately I got caught in a cycle of depression and struggled with motivation. This made it very hard for me to do my schoolwork.

At the age of nineteen I was given a diagnosis of Lupus. This autoimmune disease makes my body sore everyday. It also causes my brain to degenerate which causes me to have a hard time remembering things. This made things even harder for me and I pushed my education even further on to the previously mentioned back burner.

Due to my anxiety, Lupus and PTSD, I had put off earning my GED, or CAEC as it is now called, until last year. With the help and encouragement of my parents, I finally reached out and got a teacher assigned to me.

My teacher has been a kind and wonderful support to me as we have worked together to achieve my goal of getting my CAEC certification. She has watched me become more confident in my skills. I have always struggled greatly with math and yet I find myself having an easier time doing it in my day to day life.

I have since passed my English reading/writing tests and my social studies test with flying colours! I am studying for my science test next along with continually working on math.

It has been a long road full of ups and downs. But I have learned a lot from it and am incredibly grateful for the support of my family and my teacher, Indu.

Earning my CAEC will open up many job opportunities for me, including my dream job of becoming a 911 dispatcher. I have always loved helping others and could see myself thriving in this job.

Thank you for reading my story!

Katrina Evans