

Teen Sib Quotes

Meegan's Story

I am 18 years old with 2 Autistic Siblings. I left school with a year 12 certificate but without a UAI, and got a job in an office and moved out of home. I wanted to be a Physiotherapist. Studying and time management are difficult when you have an Autistic sibling. My 10 year old sister is severely autistic and she needs an eye on her every second of the day; she likes stripping to her nappy and running down the main road.

My 12 year old brother's behavioural problems are incontrollable at times. When I was living at home, I spent as much time away as I could. I got a job at a fast food chain and took all the shifts I could, I would go to work an hour early just so that I could deep breath and have some peace and quiet before I started.

I don't think anyone really understands how difficult it is for siblings. Even my extended family says to me "your poor Mum", and I think *what about me?* But what's worse is when people ask "what's going to happen to your brother when he gets bigger, or if something happens to your parents?" I feel so guilty, but I know that unless he starts improving, he will have to be institutionalised. My brother is 12 years old and roughly 5'4", he is heavier than me and has bigger feet (he went through a stage of stealing my shoes, but now he can't get them on. They are size 8 women's.)

I wish I could say that it gets easier when you get older. It doesn't, but you can learn to deal with it. In regards to studying, don't quit. It's not the easy way out!! Make sure you have a quiet place you can go, even the library. A boyfriend's or friend's house is not the best option, you always get distracted.

18yrs