

## Dear Dad In Heaven

Dear Dad:

I want to thank you for being the best dad.

As I entered life you could not suppress your happiness over the tiny bundle in your hands- your first and only daughter in a house that already contained two boys.

As I matured into a toddler, you held my tiny fingers by your strong calloused hands and took those precarious first steps with me. When I fell and cried you held me and wiped the tears away.

As I matured to kindergarten, we both had tears in our eyes that first day- me for the insecurity of something new- something beyond your presence, strength and love. And for you, recognizing even then your little girl was growing up.

As I matured to full time school age, you taught me how to make friends, and the gift of learning. You taught me how to ride a bicycle capturing the thrill and the freedom of the moment.

As I matured into puberty, you watched me move from child to budding woman and bestowed upon me the respect and responsibility that entailed.

As I matured into a teenager, you taught me just enough I needed to know about boys and dating. You took a step back as I learned lessons from my mistakes.

As I matured through high school, you taught me to drive, having the patience for an over eager student. You watched me start my first job, and as I stumbled through this new responsibility, you taught the value of a dollar, and tutored me in finances.

As I matured into graduation, you were the first on your feet and with tears in your eyes; you applauded the loudest as I received my diploma.

As I matured and left your house to make a place in the world for myself, I had all the life skills you had taught and our bond became even more pronounced and stronger, as we struggled fiercely for independence.

As I matured in life, I gave you your first grandchild and your tears of joy were felt through out the hospital.

And as you matured, dad, into your last days, we just sat with each other; no words needed- it had all been said before.

I wish this was true dad.

Instead why do I remember....