**Beatrice Taylor My Life**

My life is a big mix of things, like a beef stew.  A little bit of everything.

Mostly, my life revolves around my children and grandchildren.  I want to teach my grandchildren things I never taught my own kids.  They pick up on things.  If you keep talking to them, they will listen.  Sometimes they come back at me with something I told them, and then I know they are listening.

I have one grandchild who stays over with me, and we tell stories to each other.  We make up our own stories.  Some of my other grandchildren try to sew like me, but they say it’s too hard and takes a long time.  I tell them, "Everything takes a long time.  It took me 60 years to be able to sew like this!"

I try to talk Ojibwe to my grandchildren.  Sometimes I read to them, and they always want me to read the same story about a turtle.  Some of them are starting to understand Ojibwe.

All kids are good kids, they just need a role model.  They need the time you can devote to listen to them.  Sit down and talk with them.  My grandchildren are my pride and joy.

I tell my grandchildren about the old days.  We were poor, but we didn’t know it.  We had a roof over our head, and we had a big airtight heater so we were warm even in the coldest winter.  We always had wood by the house for the fire.

We used to sit on the beds and make little rag dolls.  We never had TV, but every once in awhile we would listen to the radio.  My mother would listen to soap operas.

Most of the time we were outside.  In the summertime, we were gone all day, playing in the woods and all over.  It’s funny that we never got lost, because we were always exploring.  But we always managed to get home before the evening to do our chores.  We stayed close enough to hear my mom hollering for us.

Kids these days are so modernized.  We used to read by a kerosene lamp!  But I had no worries, and we were one big happy Indian family.  I think that was the happiest time of my life.

When I’m not spending time with my grandchildren, I like to go to meetings in our community.  I know what’s going on and if I don’t like it, I can say something about it.  I don’t just sit at home and complain.  If you want something done, you have to tell someone.  There's nothing I like more than a good argument!

Before my health started to go, I was also a certified nursing assistant.   I liked waiting on the old folks at the extended care facility.  We got along really well.   I never had an argument with any of them.   Everyone used to say that old people were crabby, but I got along with all of them.