

SOAR Graduate, J.J.'s Graduation Speech

Before SOAR, I was angry, alone, distant, and confused. I was getting in trouble at home and at school a lot. I didn't know how to control my anger or deal with the problems I had gotten myself into. I blamed others for my own actions. I didn't realize how much my behavior was having on me as well as my family.

What I have learned- Through the SOAR program I have learned who I am. I have learned that I could still be myself and not get in trouble. I've learned to control my anger, problem solve, coping skills, how talking it out instead of jumping or lashing out. If I don't understand something I will ask or talk about it, and how to be a true friend.

How am I now-I'm J.J., a 13 year old that smiles a lot, tells jokes, I talk and communicate more, and a young man that can control his anger. I want to make my family proud.

I want to thank the SOAR program for helping me through this. Stacie, Ms. Cathy, Shannon, and Judge McCary. You never gave up on me. I don't know where I would be without the time and effort you all gave me. I want to thank my sister Kiara for stepping in when momma wasn't able to be here. My brother Jalen for always showing me how to act right and allowing me to follow in your footsteps. I want to thank my mom for the love and support you have always given me.

To my SOAR friends work hard and remember if I can do it so can you

J. J.