

How My Child Changed My Life

I was a teenager, who was living a reckless life. I was in trouble at school and in trouble in every area of my life. I was fifteen-years-old and thought I knew everything. I thought I was invincible. I never thought about getting in trouble or the consequences that came with it until the day my girlfriend told me she was pregnant.

I was in shock. I could not believe this was happening to me. What I did not realize was this was one of those moments that is life changing, and believe me-that it was. I was a boy and an angry boy at that. Now I was going to have to be a man and a daddy. I was not ready to be a daddy. I was only sixteen years old.

Before I found out I was going to have a son, I was disruptive during class and I was always acting out. I fought for any little reason, and therefore, I was always getting suspended from school. I had bad attendance, got kicked out of school, and put up for expulsion in all my previous high schools. I failed all my classes. The teachers, students or administration did not like me.

I always struggled in school. I have difficulty with reading and writing. I have been in Special Education most of my life. This is one reason why my behavior was bad. Since I had my son I have worked so hard in school. What I lack in ability, I make up in heart. I work hard to read and write. I want to be able to read books with my son. I want to help him with his homework.

I started college while I was in high school. I worked really hard in college. I got A's in my first two college classes. I took parenting classes in college. I was able to earn college credits while improving my parenting skills. I was able to attend high school full-

time and earn six college units at the same time. I also have worked on a job since I was sixteen years old.

At sixteen I began to sell candy every day after school so I could support my baby. I made about \$250.00 dollars a week. All the money that I made was for my son's expenses like food, clothing, and diapers. I was also fortunate to do work experience through the transition program. In this program, which is through my special education program, they let you work 75 hours on a job to gain work experience. I chose to do my hours at Napa Auto Parts. After my 75 hours, I was such a good worker they hired me on as an employee. I am still employed at Napa and I owe all of this to my son. He changed my world.

Although I have made some poor decisions, my son turned my life around. Because of him I am graduating high school, working, and going to college. I was an angry boy before and now I am a hard working young man, who is making great strides towards a better life for us.