

# Know Me

NAME

*Adam*

PASSION

*Helping Others*

## My Story

My name is Adam Parramore and I am ready to graduate from high school and be an adult. My story is about learning confidence in my ABILITIES rather than worrying about the impact of my disabilities. With the help of my family and my teachers, I'll tell you about me.

Mom says I was first connected to Stark DD when Help Me Grow set up Early Intervention help at my house. Therapy staff and my family played with me, but they were really helping me learn to eat without my G-Tube, pick up things and even walk and jump! You see, I had multiple surgeries and *long* hospital stays at Akron Children's Hospital and Cleveland Clinic as a baby, so I had LOTS of catching up to do. I also started having seizures. Once I got stronger, I got to play with other kids at Eastgate Early Childhood and Family Center.

When I turned 3 years old, I started school where I live -- Jackson Local Schools. I've gotten to go to every one of the Jackson schools except one, but at each school I've made more new friends. My family laughs because someone is always saying to them "Oh, I know Adam Parramore!" HAHA!

At Jackson I have had a lot a great teachers and have been able to try different classes to help me learn where I have trouble, and other classes that I wanted to take, like computers and art. I am creative and like to make cool stuff on my Chromebook.

During my junior and senior years in high school, I have attended the Job Training Coordination (JTC) Career Tech program at GlenOak High School because I wanted to learn about getting a job. At first I was scared, but I have gained a lot of confidence in myself. I'll let my JTC teacher, Ms. Bambi Fritsche, tell you this part of my story.

*"Adam has a passion for learning. He displays honest concern when he has to miss class and genuinely wants to do well in school. Adam is always willing to help classmates and teachers. If his class is working*



on a big project that can be frustrating, he is always positive and encourages others to stay positive. He is proud of the work that he and his classmates have done!" Adam is part of the JTC class of 2019 which was selected for the 2018 President's award for the classes' volunteer service to the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum.

Adam is an organizer- if we give him a task and show that we are confident in him- he will organize, categorize, and follow checklists. On a recent job site, Adam was charged with sorting a 1000+ hangers, ranging in dozens of shapes and sizes. Adam is also very organized with calendars and schedules. Adam knows when and where he is supposed to be and is able to help others manage their calendar too!

Adam's participation in GlenOak's JTC program has helped him focus on job skill development and gain confidence in his abilities. He has learned to self-monitor, multi-task, complete multi step processes and recently gained his ServSafe Ohio food handlers certification. He has also learned to try new things. When he started at GlenOak HS, Adam expressed his anxiety daily. However, he pushed through and soon became more and more comfortable as a JTC/GlenOak student. Now he tries new things with excitement rather than anxiety.

This past summer I also got to try out some of the skills I've learned. With the help of Stark DD Transition specialists and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) I worked at the Akron General Wellness Center in Green, helping with general cleaning, office jobs and event planning and set-up. I had a job coach to help me when I needed it. While I like to help my family clean at home, I learned that I don't want to clean for a job because the smell of the strong chemicals hurt my nose. I loved helping them get ready for events and make invitations.

Guess what? I also sell Bead Pets/Keychains that I make. I learned how to make them when I was at the Arc Summer Day Camp. I made a flyer and business cards so I can take and fill orders for my family and friends.

When I'm not in school, my parents and older brother and sister help me, especially when it comes to trying new things. They know that's hard for me. I've played Canton Challenger baseball for 10 years and I can now hit the ball to the outfield. I also go to youth group activities with my church where we help out at nursing homes and local missions. I will also tag along and volunteer with my mom.

After I graduate, I want to help my family and find a good job. I hope to live on my own someday, but for now I like being with my family.

Thank you to all the people who have helped me learn to believe in my ABILITIES.



# Know Stark DD



**Stark County Board of  
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*Supporting People with Disabilities & Their Families*