

My Most Memorable Client or Experience

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I am only in my second semester of a level one nursing clinical, so I have not really had the opportunity to experience a multitude of patients. However one patient stands out so far. I had the pleasure of being able to care for a pediatric patient for two days. She was only four years old and admitted for a spiral fracture of the left femur and placed in Bryant's traction. While caring for her, I was able get to know her a little, as well as learn a great deal about traction and the different options available for treating her specific fracture. The doctor was great and could explain to me why surgery was not the best option.

I really enjoyed working with this little girl; I found that working with a pediatric patient is much different from working with an adult patient. I had to change my whole frame of mind when I walked into the room of my pediatric patient. I not only had to have a heightened sense of awareness for what might be going on medically with this patient, but I also had to be aware of what stage of development she was in. I was able to look at her history and physical in the chart and know before I went in what she had been through since she had been admitted. I knew that she may be fearful of me at first. She had been picked, poked, and stretched in traction for the last two days. The last thing I wanted was for her to be afraid of me. Before I ever did any kind of a physical assessment I did a quick visual assessment. When I walked in she seemed to be very stable and active, even in traction. So I sat with her and we talked and read a book. I then did the physical assessment and necessary care. Those first fifteen minutes really proved

to be invaluable; from that point on she knew she could trust me and was very comfortable.

While caring for her, I achieved more hands on experience than with any other patient so far. I assisted the doctor by holding constant pressure on her affected leg while he lanced a large blister on the little girl's foot and bandage it. I was also able to successfully use distraction techniques with her while they adjusted the weight of the traction from three pounds to four pounds.

I had always known that I wanted to work with young patients, but I had the neonatal group in mind. After working with this little girl I might start looking more at the pediatric age. I love the fact that nursing is so versatile in what I can do with my career. I do not have to be held to one area for my entire career.