

“My Most Memorable Client”

By Tiffany Rourke

I have been a registered nurse for almost fifteen years, therefore having a great deal of memorable clients and experiences. For the last five years, I have worked in Ambulatory in which I have had my first experience as a nurse having clients who come on a weekly to monthly basis. I am very partial to pediatrics patients, they are my passion. Most of my other coworkers prefer not to care for pediatric patients, afraid of hurting them. With a background in Obstetrics and Pediatrics, I feel great satisfaction in knowing that I am doing things to make a difference in the child's life.

Because our hospital does not have a Pediatrics Department, we do not get very many pediatric patients for long term therapy, most go to Ann Arbor or Toledo. A couple of years ago, however, we received an order for a sixteen month old to receive a bi-weekly infusion of Solumedrol. I was assigned to “Annie” the first day she came in for her infusion. She was a precious, blonde haired, blue eyed energetic toddler who was facing a lifetime of needles and testing. Her veins had been used often enough that they were not very cooperative with us as we looked for a good spot to start. I decided to wrap her foot in a blanket to help bring her veins to the surface. This was a method we use on a variety of patients and I thought it couldn't hurt our chances. Luck was on our side, as I slid the needle into her tiny foot on the first try.

After our success of her first visit, I became her primary nurse during her infusions. We grew a bond to the point that when she saw me open the door to the department, she would run to her room and hold out her tiny arm for the IV placement. As the weeks grew into months, Annie started to get better and her infusions grew farther apart. The satisfaction I felt in my heart can never be described. Eventually Annie no longer needed her infusions and now just stops in to say “Hi”. My day is always brightened when I see her smiling face come through the door and know that I made a difference in her precious little life.

