

Alexandra Redman

## Final Reflection

I have officially completed my 10 shifts on the Pediatric Medical/Surgical floor and can confidently say I have gained so much knowledge over these last 7 weeks. Going into my preceptorship I was a bit nervous because I had only spent one module in pediatrics and 2 clinical days on my assigned floor. I was worried I wouldn't be able to pick up on cues if a patient's health was declining. I thought I had forgotten developmental stages of children and babies. I couldn't remember normal vital signs for anyone who wasn't an adult. So, to say the least, I didn't think I was prepared to transition into a student nurse role where I actually take on patients of my own with minimal supervision.

After my second shift, everything had come back to me. It was like getting back on a bike after not riding for a while. Luckily, I had the greatest preceptor who was extremely knowledgeable in just about any field you can think of. Any questions I had; she knew the answer to. She didn't just answer my questions, but she made sure I understood the "why" of the question. She gave me ample opportunities to gain knowledge of the pediatric world and perform clinical skills. I don't think I would have the current level of confidence that I do without her guidance.

During my time on the pediatric floor, I got to observe many clinical skills, as well as perform them on my own with supervision. Skills I got to observe include NG tube placement, X-rays, ultrasounds, wound care, chemo administration, deaccessing ports, administration of blood products, PICC line insertions, peritoneal dialysis, and so much more. I was lucky enough to place an NG tube on my own, administer medications PO, IV Push, IVPB, and subcutaneously. I witnessed patients' come in with multiple problems. I saw a lot of entero/rhino. I also saw a lot of motor vehicle accidents that resulted in the patients' having to have surgery. There were also times when I had to check my own personal biases and remember that I am here for the patient and that's all that matters. Seeing CPS cases was hard, but I think it prepared me for what the real nursing world will be like.

I think what made me feel like an actual nurse was the fact that I got to do all the charting, which included any Q1, Q4, Q8, QShift assessments, head-to-toe assessments, education, care plans, admits, discharges, and transfers. Being able to perform skills on your patient, chart on them, and monitor them on your own with supervision really puts everything we have learned over the last two years into action. Critical thinking also played a big role in the transition from clinicals to acting as a registered nurse. Lab results would come in, and we would have to decipher why one lab value was normal when the other was considered a critical lab value.

Overall, this was the best experience I could have imagined. I am feeling extremely confident in my future transition from student nurse to graduate nurse. I am very grateful for

the opportunities I have been given. I cannot wait to integrate what I have learned into my professional career.