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For this clinical experience, we were able to familiarize ourselves with the floor and see where everything was. It was fantastic to tour the hospital because I have always wanted to go into pediatrics. I was super excited to be able to interact with the various pediatric patients I had, but I was also nervous. This week I was assigned a patient and completed a shift assessment. This included taking vitals, checking the patient's HEENT, lung and thorax, heart and neck, peripheral, abdomen, musculoskeletal, genitourinary, and skin. I also got to administer medication rectally and assist my other classmates. This week's greatest challenge was adapting to caring for pediatric patients. This week I had the chance to entertain and push an infant in their stroller. It was a different dynamic to play and communicate with a pediatric patient because I have never cared for anyone in this age range in the hospital setting. As the day continued, I became more comfortable adapting how I spoke depending on the patient I was interacting with. Personally, I was able to improve my discipline by having a better sleeping schedule to be on time for clinicals. This was something I needed to work on because I am not used to being in bed before 10 pm, but by taking everything into consideration, I could sleep at a reasonable hour to be ready in the morning. Spiritually I was reminded to practice my faith through actions and words by showing the love of the Lord. I practiced communicating with patients in the pediatric setting, which helped me adapt to how I interacted with them.

My greatest accomplishment this week was administering enemees to a patient. This was an accomplishment because I had not administered medication rectally before. With the assistance of Professor and Bella, we were able to administer the medication and change his diaper as well. For this week's clinical, I monitored vitals, did a head-to-toe assessment, helped clean the patient after his bowel movement, and administered medication. Today I was able to get familiar with raising the bed and putting the rails up, and helping with the stroller. When providing care, I provided privacy, raised the bed for proper body mechanics, scanned the environment, gave the call light, and continued to thank the patient for their cooperation. Communication is vital, especially in the healthcare setting. The nurses and the rest of the healthcare staff demonstrated this by genuinely working as a team and ensuring they were all on the same page by communicating. With the nurse, I could ask questions, and she provided me with information on each skill and the patient. As students, we were able to check in with each other and offer to help one another if we needed it. With the instructor, we got to learn more about each skill we got to perform as she guided us through each step which helped my learning process.

An area of improvement for me is getting used to the differences in caring for pediatric patients vs. adult patients. This means remembering the different markers for vital signs and looking at the growth chart to see their percentile ranking. I knew there were differences based on when I was at my pediatrician's and also because of the information in class. Still, I want to improve on incorporating this into my care which will help with my perspective. Matthew 5:16 says, "In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do, and praise your Father who is in heaven." This verse helped me to remember that everything I say and do can be used as a light to show the love of the Lord. Everything we do should be for His glory and praise because of all He has done for us.

