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This was the first week of my pediatric clinical rotation. I was a bit apprehensive because I knew this would be significantly different from what I have learned previously in Foundations and Med Surg. In a sense, it felt as I was starting from scratch. We would be learning a wealth of new information with new terminology. Our clinical instructor started with a brief introduction to review and prepare us for what is to be expected in a pediatric unit, which I really appreciated. We reviewed normal pediatric vital signs, growth charts, and immunizations with the appropriate ages.

In pediatrics the weight of your patient is critical, medications are weight-based and accuracy is expected. We also practiced NCLEX pediatric questions, which I thought was a great idea to incorporate into our post-conference. The greatest challenge this week was remembering the immunizations. Immunizations are an essential part of pediatric nursing. As a nurse, it is important to remain up to date on routine vaccinations for our patients. Vaccinations help to protect children from a variety of diseases and will promote optimal health. Since then, I have taken additional time to practice and memorize pediatric immunizations.

My greatest accomplishment this week was presenting to my clinical group and instructor on asthma. I briefly went over what asthma is, the signs and symptoms, medications, and patient education. It is important that the parent and child have an asthma plan and know when to seek medical attention. Respiratory issues including asthma is one of the most common pediatric hospital diagnoses, so it is imperative that we stay current with treatments and patient education.

This week was an intro to our pediatric clinical experience. I am looking forward to practicing the skills I have learned in class while promoting optimal healing through therapeutic management, medications, and patient education. The scripture reference this week will be, "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 Sometimes it is difficult to see the big picture through all the temporary struggles. I am learning to let go and allow God to order my steps and trust Him even through times when things are unclear. I feel as God has sent me on a path to teach and heal and I am fulfilling my journey.