

Shanique Spence

Journal 2

This week I was assigned to a 9-year-old male, who was admitted because of a motor vehicle accident. He had an L3 vertebral fracture, blunt trauma to the abdomen, short bowel syndrome, and is paralyzed from T7-T12. He also has ADHD, anemia, osteopenia, a neurogenic bladder, a healing stage 4 sacral ulcer, an NG tube in the right nares, and a colostomy. He was on contact precaution for C-diff and is allergic to shellfish. He was alert and oriented, his respiratory functions were stable at 19 breaths per minute. His cardiovascular system was also stable, his heart rate was 73 and his blood pressure was 102/61. He is PO during the daytime, and his NG feeds are mostly overnight, and he is also on a special diet to help with gaining weight because he only weighs 56.32 pounds. He is also on strict intake and output, so he must be straight catheterized every 3-4 hours. His urine output was 100 ml and his stool from the colostomy was 70 ml.

My greatest challenge this week was communicating with my patient. He did not want me to perform most procedures on him such as a full head-to-toe assessment. He refused to have me give him a bed bath and change his clothes. I would like to work on my communication with smaller children because it is a lot harder to reason with them. So, I am working on ways to connect with them so that they are more trusting and will allow me to complete the necessary tasks for the day. My Greatest accomplishment for the day was that I got the chance to do the straight cath on my patient, and I was able to do it with minimal help from the instructor and with no mistakes.

An area for self-reflection for this week was that I am more comfortable working with adults than children, and that is something I would like to change. My fear is that they won't like

me and will not want to me take care of them. However, throughout the day after helping the nurse with her other patients, I realized that maybe I was just nervous because my interactions with the children felt easy and comfortable once I relaxed. What also solidified this for me was when I was in the hallway one of the staff said in passing that they would hire me because I have the energy that is needed there. That comment made me feel validated that I am in the right profession and to not let my nerves make me doubt myself.

Even though my patient did not want to complete my assessment and wash him up, I used it as an opportunity to educate him on why it was important. I taught him about hygiene and what can happen if he doesn't have good hygiene, and the importance of the nurse knowing his health status by checking his heart sounds and listening to the lungs for example. I also tried connecting with him based on his interest in video games, I talked with him about his favorite game now as a way for us to connect and build some trust.

This week the scripture that helped me was Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." It is amazing to see that even though these children are sick and are going through so much physically, they never forget to smile or play. They do not make their illness keep them down or angry, they are sweet, and kind.