Reflective Journal #2

212-6 Medical Surgical Nursing

By: Courtney Humphrey (0513)

On July 1st, 2014 I had the opportunity to visit the Zajac Children Ranch along with my instructor and the rest of my clinical group. Although I wasn’t feeling my best that day, I’m glad that I seized this moment and experienced Zajac Ranch. Before coming to the ranch I didn’t know a lot about it so I decided to do some research. I found that the mission of the ranch is to welcome children and young adults with chronic, life-threatening or debilitation conditions. What really stood out for me was Zajac’s vision statement which is to “empower children of all abilities to participate, foster the development of life-long skills and independence and, to create lasting opportunities for friendship and fulfillment” (Zajac Ranch for Children, 2013). From the moment you arrive at Zajac’s you can defiantly feel their vision statement come to life. You can tell by the smiles of not only the children, but the staff’s faces that they both are truly having a great time **(1.03 Makes pertinent observations; standard of practice 2: Application and integration of theory based knowledge).** It came to no shock to me to learn that many of the children have stayed at the ranch multiple times before. With the numerous activities, animals, friendships and memorial made here, I can understand why they would want to come back year after year.

I would say my favorite part of the day was walking down to the water with my clinical group and meeting the various Zajac animals along the way. I can see how the ranch would be therapeutic for the kids as I also felt a sense of calmness as I walked around the camp. One of the things I was amazed about was how well my clinical instructor new each and every kid who came into the clinic. You could really tell that the children enjoyed talking to her and that they had grown close over such a short period of time. Even though they were there for medication it was evident that she made the process an enjoyable one **(6.01 Recognizes the effects of one’s behaviors on others e.g. client/family, staff; standard of practice 1: Therapeutic interpersonal relationships).**

Once it was time for the children to be pick up by their parents my clinical group and I were given the opportunity to check the children out and give back their medications **(3.42 Administer oral, rectal, vaginal, topical, intramuscular, intravenous and subcutaneous medications; standard of practice 2: Application and integration of theory based knowledge)**. As I handed back the medication to the appropriate parents I was taken aback by some of the medication certain children were on. I’m not sure why but I assumed the children who were on medication were only on a few, however some children had whole bag full of various medications. I feel it would have been a good learning opportunity to administer the morning medications for the children however I’m sure it would have taken us a long time! **(6.03 Recognizes and identifies own feelings; standard of practice 1: Therapeutic Interpersonal relationship).** I do wish that we were able to spend more time at Zajac’s and interact more with the kids. Given the opportunity again I would defiantly return to the ranch as I feel that I could learn a lot from this place. Overall, I felt the day went great and I can’t wait to return to Zajac Children’s Ranch.

Reference

Zajac ranch for children. Vision-mission-values. Retrieved from http://www.zajacranch.com/about-zajac/vision-mission-values/