

bloodstoneminism

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Matthew
President, Imagination Forest

Hello, Friends!

I think summer is great! School is out and I get to go to hemophilia camp. Camp is awesome! I get to hike and swim and see some old friends. Be sure to read what happens in Imagination Forest when I go to camp.

Another cool thing about camp is you can learn how to do your own infusion. One boy tells what it is like to win the Big Stick award while at camp.

You can also learn about ways to make the special people in your life know they are special.

See you at camp!

Matthew

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Bloodstone Mini
201 Great Circle Road
Nashville, TN 37228

800.800.6606
HemophiliaHealth.com

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Funny Fill-In

Ask a friend for the types of words below. Fill in the blanks with your friend's answers and read aloud for a funny story.

When I infuse my factor, I (verb) _____ all my supplies first. I wash my hands with (noun) _____ and (noun) _____. Then I put (plural noun) _____ on my hands. I (verb) _____ the sterile water into the factor bottle and then (verb) _____ the factor bottle to mix it. I put a (noun) _____ into the top of the bottle to draw out the factor. Putting the needle into my (body part) _____ makes me feel (adjective) _____. After I'm done with my infusion, I place all the waste into a (noun) _____ and (verb) _____ in my treatment log.

Helpful Hints:

Verbs: action words such as run, go, bring, walk, or jump.

Nouns: words for a person, place, or thing such as man, town, or bicycle.

Plural Nouns: more than one such as gloves, shoes, or houses.

Adjectives: words that describe a noun such as happy, red, or little.

Body part: words for parts of your body such as eye, arm, nose, or knee.

Camp Gives Caleb a Chance for Success

By Lydia Dixon Harden

Before Caleb Crother headed to hemophilia camp last summer, he made an announcement to his parents: “I’m going to win the Big Stick Award.”

“We were saying, ‘yeah, yeah, yeah,’” his mom Cindy Crother recalls about Caleb’s big prediction. “Then he came off the camp bus. He looked like a pig in a pen, but he had that stick in his hand!”

The Big Stick Award has become a tradition at many hemophilia camps across the country. The award is presented to campers who learn to perform an infusion all by themselves. Not only is this a camp rite, it also represents a rite of passage for children with bleeding disorders who gain independence through self-infusion.

“At camp, they actually let us try an infusion. I really wanted to do it because it is better for me to do it than my parents,” Caleb says. “They just let us go for it. It was really fun.”

Caleb continued to use the skills he learned after he left camp. Before going to camp, he participated in his infusions by setting up the supplies and mixing the factor. Now he can perform the vein puncture, under the supervision of his mom and his dad, Kenneth.

“I still get help from my parents,” Caleb tells. “It is a little harder doing it on my own because you have to figure out where the vein is. That is what makes it harder. I have a vein in my left hand that is really good.”

Now that Caleb is taking more responsibility for his infusions, his mom has noticed other changes. “It has made him a little bit braver, more willing, and more matter of fact about his care,” she says. “I’m proud that he started to do this at seven years old.”



Caleb Crother

As Caleb has moderate hemophilia A, he treats when he has a bleed or before he participates in events where he knows he will be physically active. At eight years old, he stays very active.

“I play flag football, basketball, golf, and baseball,” tells Caleb. “I also fish and hunt. I just got my hunting license, so I like that the best. I hunt with my dad.”

Caleb is already making plans to attend camp this summer and already has another prediction. “This year I want to get even better at my infusions,” he says. “I want to learn how to infuse in my arm instead of my hand.”



Gerrard Taylor

When Welligan Hugsley wants to make people feel better, he gives them a big bear hug. Gerrard Taylor, 11, had a chance to make his mom feel better. When he entered an essay contest, he chose to write about his mom. He thinks she is special for many reasons.

It's important to let people know how you feel about them. Do you have people you think are special or who help you a lot? You can make them happy by telling them or writing about them like Gerrard. Or you can be like Welligan and give them a hug!

To Someone Special

By Gerrard Taylor

My mom works very hard taking care of me and my family. She puts clothes on my back, shoes on my feet, and food on the table. My mom brings the money in the house because my father is a disabled veteran. She has to take care of lots of things for all of us.

She still finds time to play with me and my sister, and sometimes gives us things that help us with school or just for fun, like my games and toys. She bakes cakes or brownies and lets us help.

My mom takes extra special care of me. I have hemophilia, which means my blood does not clot. I need shots twice a week. She makes sure I have all the medicine and supplies I need at home and at school. My mother supports me in any activity I am in if it is school-related or if it is with our church.

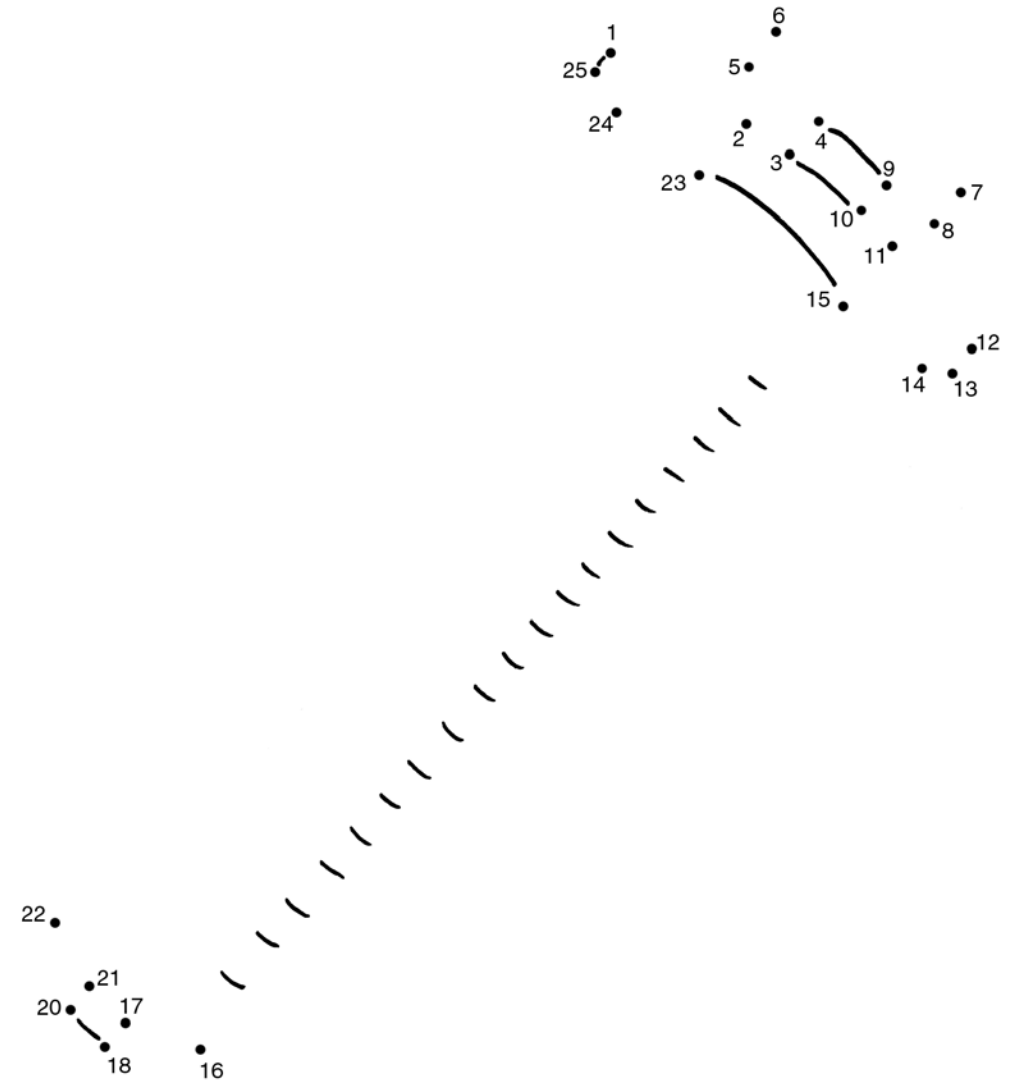
She is the greatest mom in the whole universe, and I will always feel that way about her. If you ask me why, I'll tell you it's because she is my mother and very special to me and my family.



Gerrard and the Taylor family

Connect the Dots!

Starting at 1, take a pencil and draw a line to the next number. When you've connected all the dots, you will have a cool picture. Can you say what the picture is and how you use it?



Answer: It's a syringe, and you use it to infuse factor.

The Adventures of Welligan Hugsley®

Welcome to Camp Imagination

Illustrations by Ron Ruelle
Written by Lydia Dixon Harden

It is a warm summer afternoon in Imagination Forest. All the friends who live there are sitting in the clubhouse, and they are B-O-R-E-D. Everyone is tired of doing the same activities over and over.

The Imagination Forest Friends hear footsteps outside and are happy to see their friend Matthew heading toward the clubhouse. Matthew is a boy who lives near Imagination Forest. Not only is Matthew friendly, he teaches them fun new games and about hemophilia, a condition he has.

“Hello, hi, and howdy,” says Welligan who gives Matthew a big hug. “We are all so happy to see you! Do you know a new game we can play? Can you come by every day now that school is out?”



“I have some news,” says Matthew. “I won’t be by the clubhouse for a week because I’ll be going to hemophilia camp.”

Everyone sighs. They will miss Matthew if he’s gone that long, but they are also curious.

“What’s hemophilia camp?” asks Welligan. “I’ve never heard of anything like that!”

“Hemophilia camp is a place where boys and girls with bleeding disorders get together and spend time outdoors,” explains Matthew. “We sleep in cabins, meet lots of new people, swim, put on skits, and sing around the camp fire. There are plenty of nurses there, too, and they teach us about hemophilia and doing our own infusions. I went to camp last year and had a great time. I’m looking forward to seeing some of my buddies again. I think I’ll even try to do an infusion on my own this time.”



“That sounds like so much fun,” says Jill Quill. “I wish we could go. We’re going to miss you.”

“I’ll miss you, too. You know, one reason I like Imagination Forest so much is that it reminds me of camp. Well, I have to pack my stuff. I’ll try to bring something back from camp for you,” Matthew says as he heads home.

“Wow! That sounds like a lot to do in one week. I think it would be fun to go to camp,” Shelby says wistfully.

“Why don’t we have our own camp?” exclaims Welligan. “You heard Matthew say Imagination Forest is like his camp. I know we can plan lots of fun activities just like his hemophilia camp.”

Everyone starts shouting out ideas.

“We could all sleep at the clubhouse and pretend we’re in cabins,” suggests Wolfgang.

“We could have swimming races in the pond,” says Shelby.

“I could be the camp nurse,” says Sheila.

“We can have a campfire and toast bearberry muffins,” says Welligan, patting his stomach. “Let’s start planning now.”

After several days of planning, the Imagination Forest friends are ready for their camp. They paint lots of colorful banners to decorate all the places they will hold events. The first activity is making sculptures out of clay. Some use different friends as models. Jen Pigg, on the other hand, uses the clay for a beauty mask.

In the afternoon, they go to the pond. Shelby teaches many of the others how to swim. They all laugh when they see Odoriferous Smell with wet fur.



The next event is a scavenger hunt. They divide into teams of two. Each team has drawings of several items they have to find in Imagination Forest: a rock, pine cone, stick, feather, and a leaf. The teams try to be the first ones to find all the items on their list. Unfortunately, Ben Pigg picks a leaf of poison ivy. Nurse Sheila hops into action and covers Ben in anti-itch lotion.

As the sun sets, everyone gathers by a campfire. Wolfgang brings his guitar and they start singing songs. Welligan is more interested in toasting bearberry muffins than singing.

“All this activity has made me as hungry as, well, a bear,” Welligan jokes.

After putting out the campfire, all the animals head to the clubhouse and roll out their sleeping bags. They are all so tired they sleep until very late the next morning. They wake up to hear a knock on the clubhouse door.

“Hey, everybody! I’m back from camp,” shouts Matthew. He looks around and sees everyone slowly waking up. “What’s going on?” he asks.

“We decided to have camp just like you went to,” explains Welligan. “We did crafts, played games, and swam. Tell us, what did you do?”

“I did all those things, too, but I also did my first self-infusion. It was kind of scary, but I did OK. Look they even gave me a ribbon!!” which Matthew proudly shows.



“Well we made up a song about our first camp,” says Wolfgang. “You can sing along.”

*Camp Imagination**

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