

April 16, 2004

Hello all,

Annie is definitely improved from 2 weeks ago when I last saw her. We actually carried on a conversation that was more than 2 sentences. She is with you one minute, then off on a tangent in the next minute. She is working with the large screen magnifier to read (used for macular degeneration patients usually). You place reading material (book, whatever) beneath the screen and it magnifies the letters to an enormous font. Each letter is about one inch in length, for example. She really enjoys reading the words. Some of the letters still look very similar to her but she is getting it. Still loves it when I cheer her on and give her a high five. Then she wants to do it again.

She continues to be so polite - so unlike the Annie I know. I commented on that and she grinned and said "I've decided it's better to be this way". Every week there is a new surprise.

During the week, her mother and sister drive to the neighborhood park with Annie and her wheelchair. Annie hoists herself out of the car into the wheelchair by herself now. When they arrive at an area where Annie can hold on to a fence she walks for about an hour. She is definitely getting stronger and her balance is improving. She loves to be outside.

I constantly talk about her old friends using first and last names. This week, I used first names only and Annie finished with the last names. Sunday, was the first time she knew I was Linda Pijon. So keep saying your prayers, it is working.

The family was not happy with the physical therapist that came to the house. He would work with her for ten minutes and then ask her if she was tired and wanted to stop. Of course she said yes. So little was accomplished. She will work with me tirelessly for an hour at a time. She just needs encouragement. However, even being polite she still swears at me every so often. So some things never change.

Any questions, please feel free to email me.

Linda