

June 22, 2004

Hello all,

Annie's brother and sister-in-law took Annie and her mother to their lake cottage in Wisconsin the weekend of the 12th. Her first weekend away from home. Her mother glowingly spoke of Annie having such a fun time floating on a raft - paddling around. I said to Annie, "Sounds like you had a great time". Annie looked at me, shrugged her shoulders and said, "Well, I don't remember ever being there, but Ma says I had a good time". Alas, the short term memory. Drew Barrymore's character in the movie "Fifty First Dates" has no short term memory and is a good example of how Annie's mind works. I only wish Annie was as vital and physically strong as Drew is in the movie.

Annie is walking in the back yard or at the park for at least 45 minutes each day. The new therapist is not as promising as we had all hoped. Ronnie, Annie's sister, picked up a large blue balance ball Sunday morning. We pumped up the ball and took it and Annie outside to practice. We had a lot of laughs but accomplished a great deal also. She has learned how to sit and balance herself on the ball, walk her body outwards until she is lying with only her shoulders and head on the ball, keeping her torso lifted. Then doing slow leg lifts while in that position. She can prop her lower body on the ball and do modified push ups. We practiced a few other things. I did tie a band around her waist and held it in case she would roll off. But she did really well and loved the ball. Didn't want to get off of it. So we stayed outside all afternoon on the grass. I think it will help her to regain balance and strength. It is a long and slow process for Annie.

One positive regarding her memory. She puts her jewelry on daily and noticed yesterday a ring was missing. I would classify that as short term memory as she has only been wearing these rings since at her mothers. Goodness, the Annie we all know, wouldn't wear 8 rings at once! We did find the missing ring.

She is still such a happy and polite person. One of these days I will take some photos and attach them to the emails. She always says to say hello to all of you. Keep saying your prayers for her.

Linda