

## IG Chronicles

# Friendship: The Best Thing in Life



By Dona Darr



*Emily, Dona Darr's daughter, was diagnosed with IgG subclass deficiency and complement deficiency in 2004.*

**THIS IS A STORY** of friendship. True friendship. One that has never wavered no matter the circumstances. One that has endured many illnesses and cancellation or rescheduling of activities. A friendship that when one is hurting, be it physical or emotional, the other is hurting. This is about my daughter and her best friend and what they have taught me through the years.

They were only about 3 years old without a care in the world when they met in preschool and become the best of friends. They couldn't wait to get to school so they could play together. They were inseparable.

As luck would have it, they were in the same kindergarten class. Their friendship blossomed so much so that it was determined going forward that it might not be a good idea to have them in the same class together. It was heartbreaking to them at the time, but we laugh about it now. It seems they were a bit too chatty.

Now, they are both 10 years old,

fifth-graders and beautiful young ladies. Believe it or not, they are still as close as they were then. They are more alike now than they were when they were little. They enjoy many of the same things, mostly computers and Nintendo DS. They admire each other's individual abilities. They watch out for one another and take care of one another. When one is having an issue, the other is always there to help. When shopping, "Do you think she will like it, too?" is often the question. Another common question is: "Can she go with us?" or "Can we have a sleepover?" As you can probably already tell, I don't just have one daughter, I have two, and I love every minute of it.

My daughter's relationship with her friend can teach people many things. Through my daughter's journey with primary immune deficiency disease (PIDD), their friendship has endured. Although disappointment does happen when plans need to be changed, there is understanding and forgiveness. When sickness is at hand, there is compassion. When there are delays due to doctor appointments, there is patience. Most of all, there is empathy for the disease that is a part of not just one, but both of their lives.

We should all learn what these girls

have been modeling since they were 3 years old:

- Be accepting of one another.
  - Be caring to one another — not only in words but also in actions.
  - Be considerate of another person's situation.
  - Be understanding and not judgmental.
  - Most of all, love one another.
- God made us all; He just made some of us a little different than others.

PIDD doesn't just affect the individual who is diagnosed; it affects their friends and family as well. My daughter and her friend have learned that it is better to accept one another for who they are and to love each other in spite of the disease that makes them different. If all people could be as understanding as these two are with one another, the whole world would be a better place. ■

**DONA DARR** is the mother of Emily who was diagnosed with IgG subclass deficiency and complement deficiency. Dona and Emily have been dealing together with this disease since 2004, when Emily was initially diagnosed. Dona and her support system of family and friends will continue to care for and encourage Emily for the rest her life.

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