When I have to have an IV...

(Intravenous)

St. Alexius Medical Center
I am having an IV. An IV is a very skinny tube that looks like a small straw. It will be put in my skin and will give me Medicine or water.
I will lay on the bed. My job is to hold very still.
My mom or dad or another support person might be there with me.

Sometimes a Child Life Specialist will bring me toys to play with, books to look at or a whistle to blow to help me relax.
The nurse will put a rubber band on my hand or arm. This helps the nurse find my veins. It will feel snug like a hug.
Next the nurse will clean my skin with soap. It will feel a little cold.
The nurse will use a very small needle to put the IV into my skin. The nurse will tell me before she does it. I can take some deep breaths, blow on a whistle, or count to help me relax. 1...2...3...
Next, the nurse will put clear tape over my skin to keep the IV in place.
After that, the nurse connects the tube that looks like a straw. This does not hurt. My IV start is almost done.
This is what my IV will look like. I have one more step and my IV start is all done.
Lastly, the nurse puts a soft board under my arm or hand. It feels like a pillow. The soft board will help me keep my arm or hand straight. The nurse uses tape to help the soft board stay on.
Some Friendly Faces I Might See...

Katie
Child Life Specialist

Letty
Child Life Specialist

Pam
Nurse

Kerry
Child Life Specialist