

She was 18 months old when she decided she could diaper herself by spreading the diaper on the floor, lying on it and pulling the tabs to the front. Later she would just slap that diaper between her legs and grab the tabs. We realized she was a pretty determined kid. At 2 years she was diving off a dock into a lake. At 3 years she was riding a bike - no training wheels. At 4 she was water skiing behind a boat - one hand on the tow rope and flashing the peace symbol with the other hand. There has always been soccer, but also, swim team, basketball, boys baseball team, snow skiing, volleyball and track with school; tennis with grandma. She loved it all. And piano. She'll be 14 years old in November.

She began to notice her back hurt when she did flip turns in swimming. After putting up with it, mom's massages and acupuncture, they saw an orthopedist. X-rays, MRI. He called it Scheuermann's Disease. Thoracic, lumbar and sacral bones of the spine misshapen and three discs missing.

It begins in adolescence.

I couldn't believe it.
Not our Lucy. No, no, no.

I have had a "mantra" since reading author Francine Rivers statement *"never doubt in the darkness what God has given us in the light."* There was darkness but not doubt. I have had abundant blessings of light. I just could not grasp the irony of such physical gifts given and now perhaps lost.

Lucy has shown me that her gifts are not lost - she still wears her cleats and has her swimsuit. She will decide how much pain she can bear. Her mom will still massage in the night, there may be concessions.

No matter what, I will still cheer and pray for my granddaughter.
Wink