

Case Study: Willie

Willie is a ten-year old, with severe hemophilia and a troubled family background. He has shown certain aggressive tendencies almost since birth. He is also a very loving child in many ways, and he and the hemophilia social worker have a good relationship.

At the last Hemophilia Summer Camp, the patient exhibited some difficult behavior in terms of not being cooperative with the medical staff, but he was doing better than in previous camps in terms of getting along with the other boys in his cabins. He was sent home on the sixth day of camp after he pointed a drawn arrow at a teenage girl on the archery course. He didn't actually shoot the arrow at her, but just pointed it at her. That action was considered to be enough of a liability and safety risk that he was sent home early. The director of the camp told me he will only be allowed to return if he shows progress in maintaining appropriate behavior.

I'm looking at working with him, the camp, his school and his family to define what would be considered "progress in appropriate behavior" that would earn him the right to return to camp. He did show remorse about being sent home early from camp, though he felt that he was justified in pointing the arrow at the teen girl because she was teasing him. He said that he wasn't going to shoot her and felt that people were making a big deal out of nothing. Willie said, "you have to be strong and fight back when people disrespect you. If you don't, people will walk all over you."