

# Angel in a Wet Suit

It was your smile that calmed my racing heart beneath my pink bathing suit.  
Each drop of water glistened with sunlight to create a glow about you.  
'Angel in a wet suit', I surmised as I looked at you through my toddler eyes.  
Then from my mother's arms into yours, the warm water closed me in its cocoon.  
I instantly knew this was the beginning of something that would forever change me.

**Because of your presence, I felt secure knowing  
my life was in your hands.**

It was your voice that I heard every time I reached the bar, grasping it tightly with my small hands.  
It was your voice that loudly celebrated each time I did something well, no matter how small.  
It was your voice that helped me propel my body to the steps, and gently reminded me to keep my head back.  
Your voice cheered, "You did it", and my heart took a leap.

**Because of your voice, I learned that persevering toward a goal  
was as empowering as achieving it.**

It was your hands that soothed me as I floated upon the serene water.  
It was your hands that grazed me when I needed to know that you were there.  
It was your hands that strategically placed Tigger, Pooh, and Nemo where they could beckon me to swim.  
Your hands worked with skill and quickness, shaping me into a swimmer who could survive.

**Because of your hands, I learned that inner strength  
came from believing and trusting in myself.**

It was your eyes that never strayed from keeping me safe.  
It was your eyes that soaked up every part of my being, from sleep in my eyes to pesky ant bites.  
It was your eyes that always searched for ways to teach me better than the day before.  
Your eyes picked up on what made me smile; my laugh you loved to hear.

**Because of your eyes, I learned that envisioning the ultimate outcome  
was the first step in making a dream come true.**

It was your heart that believed in me when I clung to you with doubt.  
It was your heart that waited patiently as I required a slower pace to master my skills.  
It was your heart that genuinely cared about me; my sensitivity always considered.  
Your heart made sure I had my comforts, like the floating baby doll and clapping cat.

**Because of your heart, I learned to love myself for who I am,  
my weaknesses were also my strengths.**

It was your love that sustained me through each demanding task.  
It was your love that floated in the water and clung to the stickers I wore proudly on my hand.  
It was your love that I remembered as I played "Miss Amy" in my dollhouse and in my bathtub.  
Your love showed through every move and every word.

**Because of your love, I learned that extraordinary people  
will come into my life as a precious gift.**

It was your arms that eventually let me go, and the cocoon that once held me now set me free.  
It was **my** feet kicking fiercely to the edge of the pool.  
It was **my** brain reminding me to keep my head back while I floated.  
It was **my** mouth taking in precious air at all the right moments.  
It was **my** body that knew when to turn over to rest or when to race to the side.  
It was **my** voice cheering, "I did it! I did it!"  
And as I was celebrating my beautiful transformation, I caught a glow from the corner of my eye:

**My 'angel in a wet suit', who not only taught me how to swim,  
But taught me my first lessons of life.**

