facilitator, which involves discussing and answering questions about issues related to nursing with students. Although this is appropriate for a clinical setting, I am aware that an authoritative approach might be required if I am teaching a larger group.

**How is this relevant to the Code?**  
Select one or more themes: Prioritise people, Practise effectively, Preserve safety, Promote professionalism and trust  
The article relates to the theme of practising effectively, which involves supporting students’ learning to help them improve their clinical skills and their confidence. I intend to continue to support students by keeping up-to-date with what they are learning in their university course, and will help them to apply nursing theory to practice, taking into account their preferred learning style. I will share my skills and knowledge with the students I mentor, thus enhancing their learning.

Practising effectively also involves keeping my knowledge and skills up-to-date. This article has helped to improve my understanding of the factors that influence learning and teaching, and has motivated me to find out more about learning styles.

**Grace Hughes** is a paediatric staff nurse at West Middlesex University Hospital, London

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**PATIENT VIEW**

‘Rebecca made us feel that she was fighting for our daughter’

**Emily Armstrong** says staff nurse **Rebecca McKeever**’s dedicated care of her daughter Ellie, who has a congenital heart problem, has been inspirational.

Our daughter Ellie was born with complex congenital heart disease and was transferred to the Royal Brompton Hospital in London the day she was born. Her initial stay in hospital lasted nearly three months. Much of this time was spent waiting for her to grow sufficiently for surgery, but it meant that we, her parents, had to live far from our home and family, as well as get to know our baby in the context of a high dependency unit. Staff nurse Rebecca McKeever was frequently our named nurse and it was clear from the start that she was determined to make Ellie’s life as ‘normal’ as possible.

She made it possible for Ellie to get to the playroom, which was no mean feat with all the breathing equipment she relied on, and helped us to set up playful routines that created positive experiences for Ellie. Rebecca also encouraged and supported us as parents, and her cheerful care and concern made all the difference to our time in hospital.

When Ellie was seven months old, we were back at the hospital again, this time for major open heart surgery. Unfortunately there were complications and Rebecca again became Ellie’s lead nurse.

‘Rebecca’s cheerful care and concern made all the difference to our time in hospital’

**Emily Armstrong**

She often visited us after her shifts were finished, frequently giving up large amounts of her time to help us. This consistency of support and care transformed our experience at a time when Ellie’s future was uncertain.

Rebecca emailed doctors and the rest of the team to make sure everyone was doing all they could for Ellie, and made us feel that she was fighting for her.

All the staff at the Brompton have been brilliant, but Rebecca has gone way beyond the call of duty and her ongoing support is invaluable to Ellie and to us. Her commitment and passionate dedication to her work is inspirational.

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**Ellie with nurse Rebecca McKeever**

Do you know a nurse who has made a positive difference to a patient’s life? Share your story with Nursing Standard by emailing Sarah.Lydall@rcni.com

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