

Friend

By: Annika Basch

Lora Belden inspired me in my earlier years. Her influence is always with me. Lora Belden was my friend. She was also my teacher. She was all this, as well as, a fantastic artist and my babysitter.

The first time I met Lora, I was a very little child. She was a teacher at Ellwood House day care, before it was bought by Tuckaway, when it had flair. She would do arts and crafts, things like shadow puppets and decorations for the property. She was a lifeguard in the summer. She helped me learn to swim.

It was later when she became my sitter. It was after Ellwood was bought, and many great counselors left. It was after she left to further her education. She baby-sat me for some extra money. But, to me she was more than that. Each time she came over she would have an art project for me. We would do things like make a person out of miscellaneous objects. And the first time I used a hammer was when we were making a birdhouse. I would be the guinea pig for the students she taught.

Lora babysat another child too. Grace was a lot younger than me but since Lora drove us in the same car we would draw pictures for each other. This started when I found "color wonder" coloring books in her car. I asked what they were for and if I could draw in them. She told me about Grace and said that Grace wouldn't mind if I drew in them. I drew a nice picture. Grace thought it was wonderful and soon we started drawing pictures for each other.

Lora told me stories about Grace. She seemed nice, and smart. Lora said that she used better grammar than she herself did, because Grace's Mom was an English teacher. Lora also said that she knew adult words. Lora said that if you talked to Grace like she was a child, she would get mad. Lora never talked to me like I was a child. I would have gotten frustrated too.

Lora set an example to teach what you love, to create, to excel at your job, and to respect people no matter what age. I'll never forget her and how much of a friend she was to me. Good luck with life Lora.