

# Milestones

ANNA DELAMERCED

I can see you riding your tricycle, zooming down the driveway at 3  
At 4 you were telling legends in prose and poetry  
You could dress yourself up at 5 in all the Disney costumes  
But your mama said you didn't need a physical tiara  
To show you were already crowned with one

And here you are with another milestone  
Are you excited to start in elementary?  
Maybe you'll love playing soccer on a team

I remember those days when I  
Measured my life in fingers, not decades  
And double digits felt so far away

You have miles to go, so much more to explore  
Keep on going, little one, and remember  
To treasure all these moments of wonder  
When you look up and gaze at the stars  
Finding light in the dark  
Finding light was in you all along

You make playgrounds wherever you wander  
A cardboard box becomes a palace to you  
And I know this world is a great big one with  
Oceans deeper than the eye can see  
And galaxies beyond our own understanding

But just like your mama told you in the parking lot  
Don't cross the street without holding someone's hand  
And you'll never walk alone

*This poem is inspired by the children I met on my pediatrics rotation*