**Who’s in my Pocket?**

Throughout my life, I have had the pleasure of meeting and teaching many students whether it be through field placements or through me teaching swimming lessons in the past. There is one student I happen to be very interested in. For the purpose of the story, we are going to call this person “Tup” as I know it is the name of a character from a TV show they enjoy. Tup is a kid who is very athletically gifted in any sport they played. They have so much potential in every sport, mainly hockey. I’ve never seen someone have so much potential in a specific sport. The reason I bring this student up is because I could tell that their beliefs did not align with his peers in the classroom. I had the privilege of teaching this student some lifesaving skills in both the swimming pool as well as first aid lessons. I could easily tell that Tup was quite uninterested with what lessons I had to offer. I knew he was the same in a school setting as my mother is a teacher and she has taught him in the past. I felt obligated to help this child because I seen a lot more of my self in him when I was that age then I hoped to admit. He felt as though he didn’t need these lessons and that school and swimming lessons alike were not in his best interest. He just wanted to go to the rink to play hockey and improve on his skills there. I simply approached him to let him know that expanding his interests is not always a bad thing. Those new tools you may learn could take you a long way in both his future life as well as his hockey career.

I always wondered what became of Tup and how he came to have these beliefs. It was crazy to me because I know his parents very well. They are very strict and they push their kids to be open-minded and well-rounded in all parts of their lives. Whether that be sport, school, relationship building, the list goes on. I want to point out when I say strict, I don’t mean that they are rude or embellishing towards their kids. They just want what is best for them. One thing I do notice, however, is that Tup’s dad was a fantastic hockey player, even playing in the NHL for a short time. I believe that this is where the beliefs and motives of Tup’s attitudes come from. He wants to be just like his dad any way that he possibly can. He doesn’t want to be distracted by anything so he can be just like his dad. These actions aren’t born out of selfish means but rather he wants to make his parents proud like his dad once felt. This is a crucial piece of information to take into account as, now that we know this, we can take the appropriate actions in order to help Tup to reach his full potential!