Relentless needle sticks are often part of the brutal reality of disease management for kids living life with immune thrombocytopenia, the most common autoimmune bleeding disorder. Imagine being a child in a hematology/oncology unit or clinic where most patients have cancer. Sound frightening, lonely and disheartening? For a kid with ITP, it is.

Most programs created for child hematology/oncology patients are for those with cancer. PDSA has designed the ITP POKE~R CLUB™ to empower kids with ITP by alleviating needle phobia and giving patients a support group of their own.

Needle phobia significantly decreased after enrollment in the POKE~R CLUB™ demonstrating that PDSA has accomplished its goal in minimizing the anxiety correlated with treatments, draws and pokes, although BUZZY® doesn’t necessarily eliminate pain from venipuncture. The program has had a significant positive impact on pediatric patients with ITP and is most effective for children and preteens with chronic ITP.

"I just want to say that we LOVE the BUZZY® and my son was so excited to get one of his own so that no matter where we have to go for draws, we always know we have a BUZZY® available. …We are grateful for the help and support from PDSA as we navigate this journey with chronic ITP. Thank you!" ~ Jana

Making the world of ITP a more manageable place to be!