Beloved son of Jackie Lynch, Sallie King and the late Jennelle Sheffield, Shawn always favored red. The color is a fitting representation of how this child lived -- with an energy and vibrance that was unmistakably unadulterated passion. When he laughed, when he cried, when enduring immeasurable discomforts, those around him were necessarily scorched by the fiery rawness of his passion. Shawn's great zest for life is symbolized by his l'chaim portrait and by the "sun peeping in the window". Shawn greeted each morning equally with an excitement and anticipation that was contagious as his first words each morning became a predictable proclamation of the "sun peeping through my window".

When his little legs stopped working for him, Shawn rode his 'power wheels' motorcycle everywhere he could convince us to haul it: around the house, in the park, at the mall, in the hospital. He preferred not to leave the house without his motorcycle or his 'blankie'. Shawn's birth and death dates are embroidered onto a remnant of his last and favorite blankie. The poem was written for Shawn's other parent, my lover, Sal-Sal, in the spring before Shawnie died. I hoped it spoke to our struggle to recognize, allow and even ease the completion of his passion and mission: to have been an occasion of love. Shawn managed to live an incredibly normal child life with most of the ups and downs associated with childhood. He also happened to be perhaps the most courageous, honest and noble human being I have ever encountered. As breath became less possible, Shawn recognized death, named her for us and died in our arms, at home in his playroom. For the gift of knowing, loving, being loved by him and for the awesome privilidge of having been his 'mama' I am, in spirit and in deed, changed and eternally grateful.
For Shawn Sheffield

From your teachers in the preschool education program

1985 - 1990

Although you were only with us for a short time, we fondly remember your smile, and how much you loved snack time, candy, and Valentine's Day. Your two moms, Jackie and Sally, really wanted you to have a fun experience in school and we were blessed to have been your teachers! Love, Minnie, Beth, Marianne, Dovie, and Amanda.