

Generalisations of children's experience of hospital spaces?

Reflections from a research
study across three hospitals.



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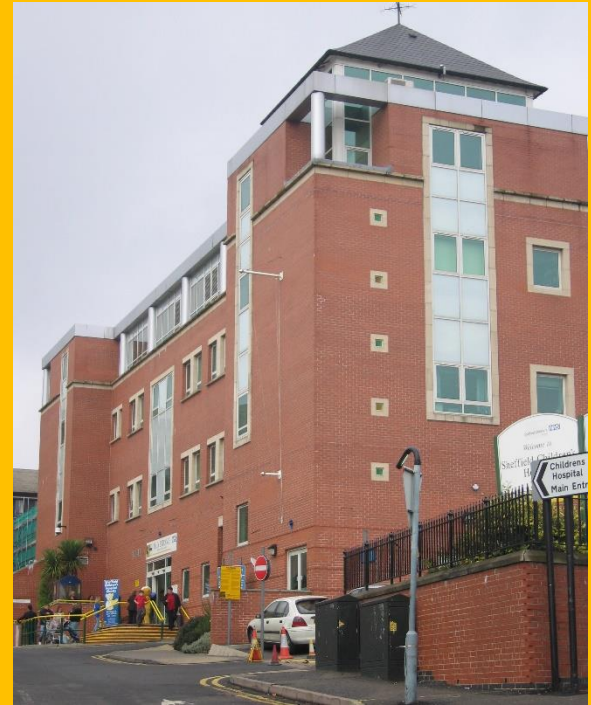
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many facilities have been:

“designed with little acknowledgement of the differing needs of small children, older children, adolescents, parents and carers”

The ‘Emerging Findings’ from the Children’s National Service Framework (NSF) (Department of Health 2003 para 2.19)



Space to Care research

- 255 interviews in outpatients (40 children in each of 3 sites)
- Children and young people 4-16 years
- 135 in-depth interviews in inpatients (45 children in each of 3 sites)
- Fieldnotes, participant observation, mapping, stickers, drawings, interviews

**“All the decoration and colours are
good for younger kids so it feels like
nursery instead of a scary hospital”
16yo girl**



old and
tatty

plain and
white

power
tools



Syringes and stuff

I'm scared something is
going to hurt me





‘When I have a blood test, I have to scream.. because it hurts’ (6 year old girl)

‘The only one thing I hate.. The treatment room with the flipping needles, oh no! Just don’t, I just don’t, I like to fight the nurses’ (9 year old girl)

This boy had blood tests when he was 5 which he clearly recalls: ‘I was madly... got chased by a security guard.. .pinned down by security...It was scary’ Mum: ‘..on the floor weren’t we?’ (12 year old boy)

‘I would like to be active and not cooped up’
(14 year old boy)

‘It [the cubicle] is too enclosed – you’d be on
your own like...it’s dead small,
claustrophobic’ (different 14 year old boy)

‘It should be stored...I understand some stuff
has to be out’ (13 year old girl)

[the bathroom] ‘looks plain...untidy and the
wall is dirty’ (6 year old girl)

There are things to
lift you up
(9 year old boy)

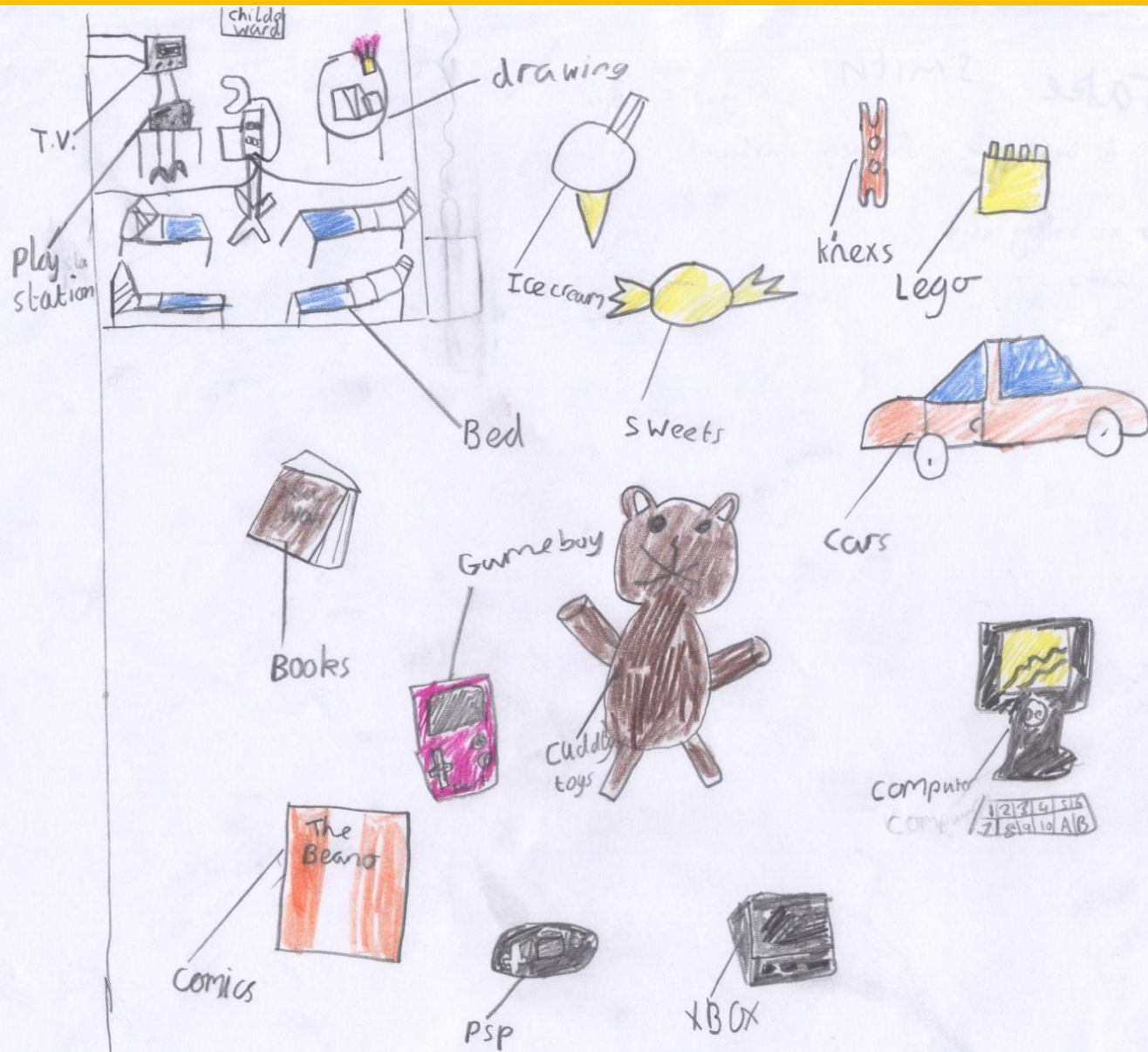
I don't know what the hell that thing
is! (12 year old boy)



It's a bit technical...may be for people
who can't walk...but it's a bit technical
(14 year old boy)









Other
places...school



Other places...shops

Preferred activities

Younger children

Art (drawing / colouring etc) especially under 10s but craft activities also liked by some older girls

Toys and games

TV

Older children

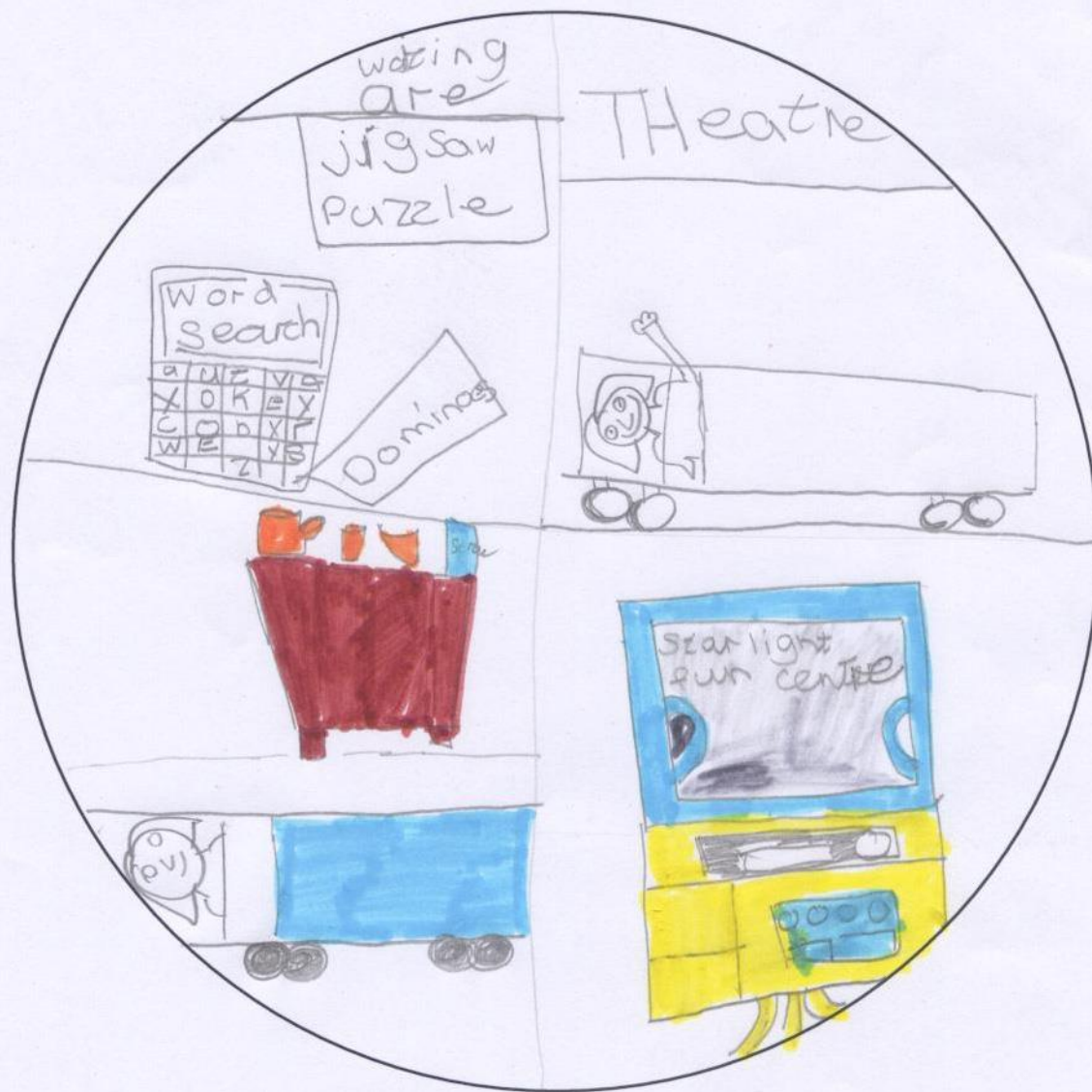
TV and DVDs

Computers (especially with access to www)
games consoles


Music

Reading





'I'd put like computers, some laptops in every , next to every bed... with the internet... and its, have phone as well, next to every bed. (16 year old boy)



Int: Okay, why, first of all, why don't you like picture with the bath?

Jake(5):Because it's disabled

Int: Okay and why is ...why don't you like that very much?

Jake (5): Because disabled people are like, like wrinkled

Int: Okay, I see

Jake (5): And I don't like wrinkles

Int: Alright

Jake(5): You've quite got some if you frown

Int: Thanks. I know...I have. Some days I have more wrinkles than others...