

UN Convention on Rights of the Child 1989

- Art. 12 Respect for the views of the child
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 (1) "States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable
 of forming his or her own views the right to express those
 views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of
 the child being given due weight in accordance with the
 age and maturity of the child."

 Staff caring for children in hospital should be able and
 willing to listen to them, to treat them with respect, to
 successfully communicate with them and in matters of
 dissent be able and willing to reach an amicable
 agreement.
- http://www.each-for-sick-children.org



What do we know about children and their fears?

My Research Studies

- STUDY 1- interviews with 11 children aged 7-14 years from 4 paediatric wards in two hospitals in UK. 8 had chronic conditions (asthma, orthopaediac, skin conditions) and 3 acute.
- STUDY 2 interviews with 17 children & YP aged 7-16 years from two hospitals (two children's hospitals and one district general hospital) in Ireland. 7 had chronic conditions (renal, epilepsy, orthopaediac) and 10 acute conditions (cellulitis, abdominal pain).
- STUDY 3- interviews with 55 children & YP aged 7-18 years from two children's hospitals and one district general hospital in Ireland. Children with acute (n=27) & chronic conditions (n=28).



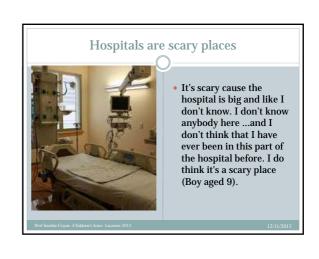
Fears about separation from family & friends

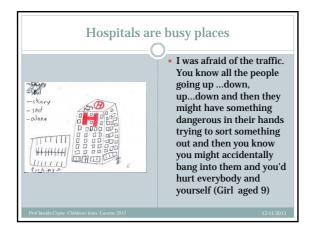
- Experience disruption to:
- Family routines
- ONormal everyday activities
- Peer relationships
- School achievement

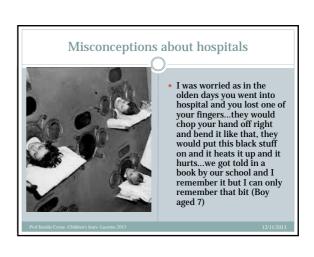




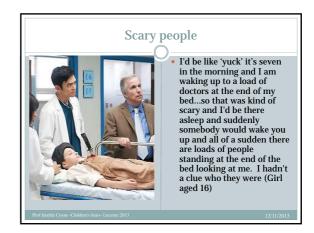




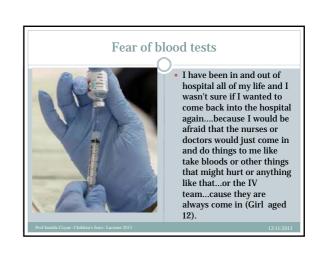




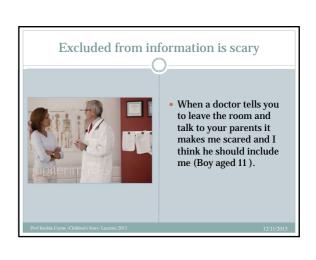












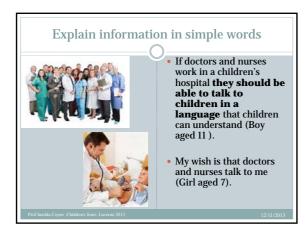
Remembering

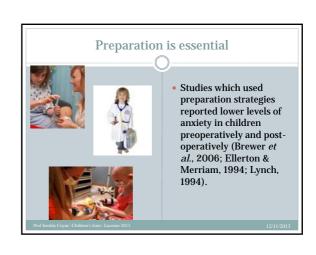
• ...And then I remember this piece of cotton wool with a hole in, I think it went over my mouth and my nose. And then I remember this spray, spraying something in my face and I remember kicking and screaming terrible. [cries] I remember, Sister [Name], I think she was a theatre assistant and I remember her holding my legs down. I remember her getting hold of my legs and holding them down. I don't remember anymore, but it was terrible. [pause] Those things don't happen anymore do they] [cries].

Prof Imelda Covne -Children's fears- Lucerne 2013

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- Hospital environments need to be more childcentered
- It is essential that children's views are elicited about the delivery of their care.
- Children are more likely to be less distressed if their views are listened to and they know what is happening.

Conclusion Listen to the children Find out what they fear Listen to us Find out what they dislike Try to reduce their fears Make their stay easier They do remember!

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Thank You

- My one big wish is that nurses and doctors would explain things better to children (Child, 10years)
 - Thank you all questions are welcomed

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