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Recommendations from siblings of children with life-limiting conditions

Some children have conditions or illnesses that mean they need to use a hospice where they receive special care. Often these children have brothers and sisters who love them, but we sometimes don't hear what is going on in their lives.

We are a group of children whose siblings sometimes stay in a hospital or hospice. We worked on a project to make the following recommendations for siblings who have brothers or sisters who need this special help. We hope these recommendations will be useful for parents, teachers, doctors, nurses, and anyone else who cares for children like us.

We think it's important that people know what a hospice is so that they understand why we come and how they can help. We think that anyone who needs a hospice should be able to use one, and that money shouldn't stop that.

Here are our recommendations.

Sometimes we need peace and quiet to think about things ourselves. This can be hard when everything is so busy. Having a space for quiet time is helpful.



Make sure places are open for us to play when we come to the hospice.

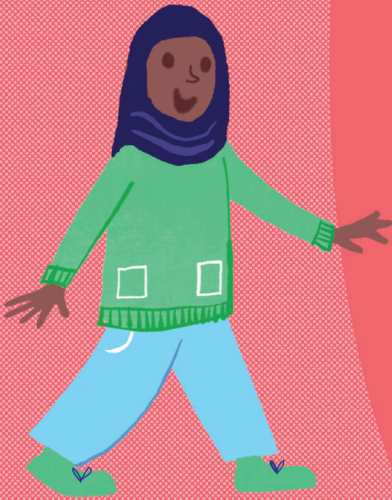


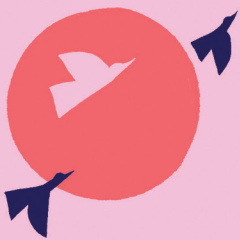
It's good to talk to other siblings about our situation if we want. Time and space for this are important.





We like making friends with other siblings who are in the same situation. Encourage more of them to come to the hospice and help us to meet-up there.





We enjoy being together to do activities like art or games. More of this would be great.



$$w + h + y = ?$$



We sometimes want our teachers to know about our lives so that they understand why we might feel or behave the way we do. Sometimes we want this to be private. So, ask us what we want.

Having an adult we trust to talk to about our feelings can be helpful, but we don't always want to talk about things in our lives.



We understand that our brother or sister needs a lot of attention from the people who look after us. It's important that we get time with our parents too.



Our project names are: Grace, Hollie, King Bob, Rose, Sophie, Wee Cillian and Zoe. The researchers on the project are: Claire Cassidy (University of Strathclyde); Lorna Fraser (King's College London); and Anna Robinson (University of Strathclyde). The project partners are: Cillian Dwyer (AIMS Advocacy): philosophy facilitator; Tim Knights: camera person; Alison Murray (everythingispattern.com): design and illustration; Sarah Wishart (The Assembling: sarahwishart.com): filmmaker; Becky Brown (Nimbuscare); and Annabel Howell (CHAS).



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