



NEWSLETTER

March 2017

In this month's newsletter, we suggest some considerations for spiritual care with children and young people with disabilities. 6% of children in the UK are considered to have a disability, and this proportion is likely to be much higher for children and young people who spend a long time in hospital or hospice care. It is therefore important to think about how to provide spiritual care to disabled children and young people.

It's useful to think about what barriers there are to children participating in spiritual care, and how healthcare professionals can make sure that the provision of spiritual care to make sure it is accessible to all. Some of the issues to consider can include mental abilities, communication abilities, or physical abilities such as problems with mobility or motor skills.

Some of our spiritual care activities can be developed to be used with children and young people with a disability. [Fingerprint art](#) could be used with children who have limited motor control. Some children with special needs might have strong reactions to some sensory stimuli, so creating a [sensory box](#) with items which they like could be comforting.

Developing more resources and ways of providing spiritual care with severely disabled children and young people is something that the CPSC would like to improve on. Let us know if your experiences or ideas!



Updates

We began our research in the spiritual and emotional needs of siblings of children with a rare disease on Saturday 25th February, at a Rare Diseases Day organised by the rare diseases department.

The day was a big success, as we recruited and interviewed over half our total intended number of participants on the day. We will be continuing with interviews and focus groups over the next few months, we look forward to sharing our progress with you!



CENTRE FOR PAEDIATRIC SPIRITUAL CARE

Blog

This month's blog is two examples of spiritual care with children in hospital taken from our book, 'Spiritual Care with Sick Children and Young People'.

In the first example, Maddy Parkes, a spiritual care practitioner, describes how doing a spiritual care activity with a young person with a developmental delay facilitated a moment of connection and reflection.

Secondly, Kathryn Darby, a chaplain at Birmingham Children's Hospital, describes doing the Dream Space activity featured in last month's newsletter with a young person with limited motor skills. She describes meeting this young person for the first time and how she developed an understanding of this particular young person's abilities to participate in this activity.

You can read of our blog posts [here](#).



Upcoming Multi-Faith and Cultural Events

1st March—Christian
Ash Wednesday

1st March-Cultural
St David's Day

8th March-Cultural
International Women's Day

11th March –Hindu
Holi

17th March-Cultural
St Patrick's Day

26th March-Christian
Mother's Day

Featured Resource

Disability Matters

<https://www.disabilitymatters.org.uk/>

Disability matters is an e-learning resource developed by the RCPCH for any healthcare professionals who work with disabled children and young people. Sessions are around 20-40 minutes, and you don't need to create an account to access them, although you can keep track of your progress if you do sign in.

The website includes various modules on the following categories:

- Understanding disability
- Person to person
- Family and society
- Decision making and growing up
- Behaviour and emotions
- Health and wellbeing



Feedback Request

We would love to hear your feedback from you about the development of the Centre, so we have developed a short survey.

We would really appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete the questionnaire here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/22JGJVQ>

To say thank you for your time, there is an option for anyone completing the survey to be entered into a prize draw to win a £25 Red Balloon Resources voucher.

