

case study:

Magic Carpet in the hospital environment

Does Magic Carpet enhance the hospital visit, offer distractional play and provide interactive support during invasive procedures?

Sian Spencer-Little, a specialised play practitioner at Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, reports.



What is your role at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust?

I work in a paediatric acute setting, within The Princess Royal University District General Hospital, which forms part of King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

I am a 'Specialised Play Practitioner', which means that the essence of my work is to limit the level of trauma children and young people may experience when they visit the hospital for a procedure.

We do this in a number of ways, such as specialised or distractional play, prep play and by establishing play programmes - this in part is what led us to discover the Magic Carpet.

Why did you decide to purchase the Magic Carpet?

Ease of use, mobility and cleanliness were important factors that we considered.



We were looking for something that was quite distinctive in its capabilities to help us

within a clinical setting and were keen to have a product that is tailored to children and young people of all ages and stages of development.

“ The Magic Carpet seemed to be the most interactive equipment that is available. ”

We wanted a product that is really interactive and could be led by children and young people so that they can have some control over their environment.

We looked at similar products, however, the Magic Carpet seemed to be the most interactive equipment that is available.

The Magic Carpet also has the ability to make an impact as soon as you walk into the room.

It can transform the hospital environment into a magical place that feels completely different to your traditional hospital setting.

This helps to create a sense of calmness for children and young people in what can be a very stressful experience.

We also spent time considering how the Magic Carpet would impact infection prevention within the trust, which is something that is very important when considering a piece of kit for a clinical environment.



The Magic Carpet can be wiped down, is self-contained and non-porous, which means that it meets infection prevention NHS guidelines.

What setting is the Magic Carpet used within the hospital?

We were fortunate to gain funding for the Magic Carpet from The Rotary Club of Bromley who contacted us because they wanted to fund a project that would significantly benefit the local community.

Both parties agreed that the Magic Carpet would benefit the local community by being placed in our paediatric phlebotomy clinic.

Case Study: Magic Carpet in the Hospital Environment

The clinic takes blood from children who come into the hospital as outpatients.

The clinic runs all week and we see around 30 children and young people a day, meaning that a large number get to benefit from the Magic Carpet over the course of a week!

How do practitioners use the Magic Carpet?

The Magic Carpet is operated by the paediatric phlebotomist and team within our busy children's outpatient's department. They operate the device from their mobile phones and have received training so that they can tailor the content to each individual child.

Our phlebotomist, always starts by playing a calming app, such as water or poppies, so that when a child enters the room the atmosphere is quiet and relaxing.

She proceeds to demonstrate what happens if she interacts with the content with her foot or hand, which quickly captures the child's attention. Then she is able to explain and prepare the child for the procedure while they are captivated by the Magic Carpet.

Once the procedure is done the children get to choose which applications they want to play with until the room needs to be made available for the next appointment.

Due to the teams use of the Magic Carpet and distraction play, the child leaves the hospital feeling happy, settled and calm. Their whole journey and experience of being in the hospital is a positive one.



Lots of children now even get excited about the thought of coming to hospital because they "will get to play football on the floor"!

This means the hospital is no longer a scary experience that they want to try and avoid.

When children are highly stressed and in a difficult environment the sense that is heightened the most is their stress sensor, however, with the Magic Carpet, their sensory imagination is evoked instead.

This means we are impacting the patient experience by switching what possibly could have been a really scary experience to something completely different.



Magic carpet can help:

- Enhance the hospital visit ✓
- Entertain ✓
- Provide therapeutic play ✓
- Aid distraction ✓
- Relieve stress ✓
- Confidence and esteem ✓
- Provide social interaction ✓
- Aid physiotherapy ✓
- Retain and develop skills ✓
- Rehabilitation ✓
- Educate while in hospital ✓

What is your favourite memory of Magic Carpet being used within the hospital?

When we first got the Magic Carpet we had a five-year-old who was very anxious about coming to hospital.

She had heard and seen lots of scary things about hospital and didn't know what to believe.

I spoke to her parents before she came for her procedure and found out that she loved Nemo the fish, so we put the fish tank app on the Magic Carpet before she entered the room.

When she arrived, I held her hand and we walked through the fish tank.

She could see that bubbles were forming and the fish were moving and she was absolutely transfixed.



After a while she said: "But there is a hospital on the telly that makes people cry."

I said: "Well you know what? This hospital is a bit different. I wanted to show you this to see if you like it, and I hope that it will make your blood test only a little bit uncomfortable, but not a lot."

The little girl said: "Are you going to turn it off?"

And I said: "No, we are going to keep it on!"

We put the phlebotomy chair in the middle of the projection so that she could interact with the content while she was having the blood test.

She was so busy trying to move the fish around that she didn't even realise when we did the blood test.

After the procedure was done she said: "I don't want to go home, I want to stay here and play with the fish!"

"Maybe next time," I said, "but I need to put the fish to bed now because they need to have a rest before the other children come to see them!"

This demonstrates how the Magic Carpet completely changed her perception of what hospital is.



What other settings within the hospital do you think could benefit from a Magic Carpet?

Our long-term aim is to have another unit for the children's ward.

I think the Magic Carpet could also work very well for rehabilitation because it taps into cause and effect.

If you take a step forward this will happen, if you take another step forward something else will happen.

Children who are in rehabilitation often work well with cause and effect because it provides a means of encouragement and positive rewards. Magic Carpet is great for that.

I also think that a child in an intensive care environment who was particularly unwell and has high levels of pain might benefit from access to the Magic Carpet.

You could project the content onto the bed and they could enjoy the colours and relaxing sounds, which could be nice and soothing if it is administered in the right way.

Case Study: Magic Carpet in the Hospital Environment

How are the needs of different users catered for with the Magic Carpet?

The Magic Carpet is fantastic because it doesn't close off any group of children or young people. It can be used by everyone.

I also like the fact that the Magic Carpet is mobile so that we can easily move it to different wards or vary the projection size so that we can project it onto a bed, or wheelchair table top.

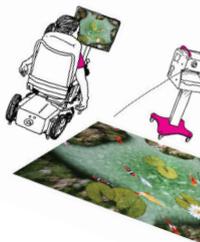
Magic Carpet also responds to the slightest of movements which means that you will have an interactive experience no matter how small or big your movements are.



We also work with a lot of children with Autism and Asperger's who come to the hospital on a regular basis.

It was important to have a suitable product that would enable them to have something to look forward to when they come to the hospital, other than focusing on the procedure that they are going to have.

Furthermore, although we haven't linked the Magic Carpet up to Alternative and Augmentative Communication aids like Eye Gaze and Switch devices yet, because we haven't needed to, I know that if we did have a long-term condition patient



“We wanted the Magic Carpet to enhance the hospital visit, offer distractional play and provide interactive support during invasive procedures – and the feedback showed that is exactly what we are getting.”

that uses Eye Gaze, I could link the Magic Carpet up to their device if required.

This is another amazing feature of the Magic Carpet.



What has feedback been like?

Feedback has been really positive.

For a month, we asked patients and their families to fill out a questionnaire relating to the Magic Carpet.

Questions surrounded whether they liked the Magic Carpet and if it had made a difference to their visit.

The feedback was extremely positive with approximately 90% stating that the Magic Carpet:

- had made a change when they came into the hospital
- was liked
- was fun

- was interactive
- took their mind off what they were having done in hospital

We wanted the Magic Carpet to enhance the hospital visit, offer distractional play and provide interactive support during invasive procedures. The feedback showed that is exactly what we are getting.



All of the staff team in children's outpatients also know how to use the Magic Carpet and have responded really well to it.

Parents also always comment how wonderful the Magic Carpet is.

How has the experience of working with Sensory Guru been?

The whole experience has been great from start to finish.



The process really has been quite seamless, despite there being several partners involved in the journey – including myself and King's College University Foundation Trust, The Bromley Rotary Club and Sensory Guru.

It has been a collaborative journey and we have been able to work really well together in order to make sure that, at the centre of everything, remained the child or young person and their experience of hospital. I think that was never lost.



We would like to thank Sian and Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for working with us and letting us carry out this interview.

It has been fantastic to work with practitioners who are so passionate and enthusiastic about providing a great experience for their patients.

We would also like to thank The Bromley Rotary Club for supporting Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in their fundraising efforts.