

**Children
In Hospital**
Ireland (CIH)

Making hospital a happier place through play and advocacy



Volunteer Newsletter Spring 2022

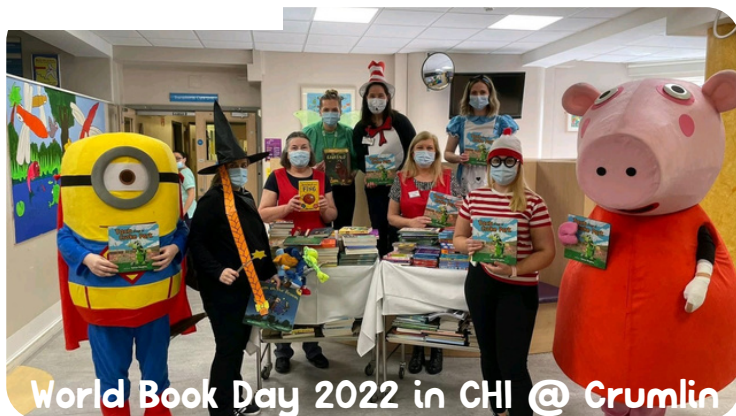
The sun has started shining, days are getting longer, and our plans are all getting brighter too. Volunteering at bedsides and a few lucky playrooms has resumed in CHI @ Temple St and Crumlin, the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Cork University Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Drogheda. Over 80 volunteers across these hospitals have resumed volunteering, or have just joined us as new volunteers.

Please do get in touch if you are keen to resume volunteering, even if we are not back in your hospital yet.

Spring recruitment is always one of the busiest times of year, and it was fantastic to get back to meeting new volunteers in person as information evenings and training days took place in Cork and Dublin this February. We have also held a number of online information evenings and training days. Upcoming still (and please share with family, friends and co-workers who might be interested!): *Dublin April 27th, Drogheda TBC for early May.*

A huge welcome to the team to all of our new or soon to be starting volunteers!

Elizabeth Morris



World Book Day 2022 in CHI @ Crumlin



1,900 books and isolation packs distributed to 21 paediatric units in February with support from



This February, Naomh Ólaf GAA Club Sandyford opened its doors to CIH volunteers for play packing. We were joined by Greg Brennan: CEO Brennan & Co and Chair of SBD and An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Lettie McCarthy

Follow us :



www.childreninhospital.ie



Events & Online Workshops

Parent's Hub Consultation – add your experience

Wednesday, April 6th 10.30 – 12.00 (zoom)



We are currently developing a new online platform which will provide information and supports to assist parents and families throughout their hospital journey. We want to hear directly from parents who have experience with having a child in hospital about what parents need to know and the main challenges faced when accessing information. Please also share with friends and family - any parents with experience with having a child in hospital are welcome to attend. To find out more and to register for the event please contact fiachra@childreninhospital.ie

National Volunteer Week: Celebrate & Reconnect May 16th – 20th 2022

Wednesday May 18th 7-8.30pm

Online Lámh Information Session

Wednesday, 18th of May 7 – 8.30pm

Lámh is a manual sign system that can be used by children and adults with communication needs in Ireland. It is a system that supports communication - between parents and child, between siblings, between friends and with other significant people in the child's life. It can be a stepping stone to communicating with the world.

Lámh Encourages:

- Eye Contact
- Develops Vocabulary
- Helps Self-Expression
- Motivates the Person to Try Out New Words
- Promotes Attention to Movements
- Can reduce Frustration



This information session will give background information on Lámh, how and where to access training and teach participants a few signs which could be helpful in their current volunteering roles.

Jeanne Dippenaar has been a Lámh Contract Tutor since 2006 and continues to train groups of interested parties on behalf of the Lámh Development Office

Click here to RSVP for Lámh:

<https://forms.office.com/r/sEMe8g96S9>

Friday May 20th 12 – 1pm



Let's Talk -

Interaction and Play

Friday May 20th 2022
12 – 1pm

Supporting children and young people with additional needs through inclusive interaction and play



Julianna Little
Clinical Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
National Rehabilitation Hospital
Paediatric Programme



Following last year's workshop, we are thrilled to welcome Julianna Little back. RSVP:

<https://forms.office.com/r/H6Jdcv9f7Z>

Get together!

- Tea, coffee, food and treats around the country.
 - While we're together, we will also take a chance to pack up some colouring pages, crayons, crafts and little toys for single use play packs in your local hospital. These resources have been invaluable to hospitals throughout COVID to keep play going.
- No times or locations set, to help please use the links below to select days and times that you would be available to join. We will select the dates that suit the most and confirm in early May.

- Cork - https://rally.co/B1on33_G9
- Dublin (City Centre) - <https://rally.co/B1jeAnuf5>
- Galway - https://rally.co/H1lTR2_Gq
- Castlebar - <https://rally.co/S14ly6uM5>
- Wexford - <https://rally.co/BkXj-M175>





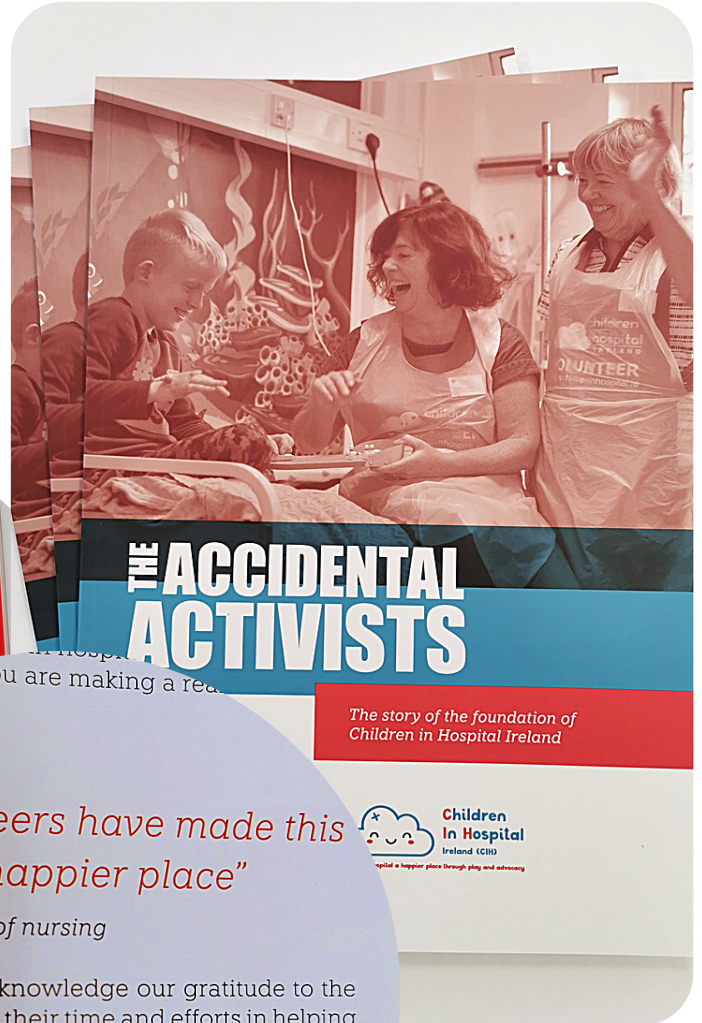
Thank You for Being Part of The Story

We have loved hearing from you all over
the past year!

**Our 50th Anniversary Memoir: The Accidental
Activists launched March 26th, 2022**

Buy the memoir for €10 :

<https://childreninhospital.ie/product/memoir/>



*"The volunteers have made this
hospital a happier place"*

A current director of nursing

"I would like to acknowledge our gratitude to the CIH volunteers for their time and efforts in helping the sick children at the hospital. Their kindness and care with the children alleviates a lot of the stress that children and their families experience during their stay in hospital. For many years, CIH volunteers have made this hospital a happier place for children."

The heart of the matter: our award-winning volunteers

CHAPTER FOUR

*The heart of the matter: our
award-winning volunteers*

*"What I recall most is the
resilience of the young patients"*
Sheila Kane, Temple Street, Dublin, 1995-2005

"I became aware of the possibility of helping out
in Temple Street, which meant a lot to me as my
parents had been on the medical staff there.
There was a well-equipped playroom supervised

Wendy Miklis, Mary O'Connor, Kathleen Craughwell, Áine Boland, Avril Condell, Claire Connaughton & Maura Harmon

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Conference

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 11th May 2022



Children's Heartbeat Trust and Children in Hospital Ireland

Working Together for Families In Hospital

Virtual Conference

This conference will explore the impact of having a sick child in hospital on families and consider how charities, health professionals, policy-makers and those in power can work together across the island to provide improved supports.



To register your interest in attending please email:
admin@childrensheartbeattrust.org

Funded by: 

Jointly organised by Children's Heartbeat Trust Northern Ireland (CHT) and Children in Hospital Ireland (CIH), this virtual conference will delve into some of the key issues related to childhood illness and the impact on families throughout the island of Ireland. It is an opportunity for anyone involved in the area or impacted by childhood illness to come together and collectively explore the issues to learn more about what is working well on the island and consider what is needed to achieve positive and meaningful changes for sick children, their parents, and their families.

Attendees will hear from a range of people active in the field, including advocates, researchers, frontline workers, and parents, all of whom can offer unique insights into the challenges faced by families when a child is sick in hospital.

Please see attached the Save the Date and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Individualised Play Visits

One particular area of support has been growing for our volunteer service. We continue to receive increasing numbers of requests from clinical nurse specialists and social workers for prolonged and individualised support for some children particularly in need of additional play visits.

We will be working on improving the ways we are able to offer play to these children, including piloting a new volunteer role which would bring in additional volunteers as required to supplement our weekly service.

We will need your ideas, feedback and support to bring this to life. We won't be formalising this project just yet, but do get in touch if it is something that is of interest to you, or may be of interest to your friends or family.

The State of Play in Irish Hospitals

This February we asked play specialists and clinical nurse managers about the current state of play in their hospitals, the number of play specialists employed, the number of play rooms open, and how COVID has impacted play in hospital for themselves and children.

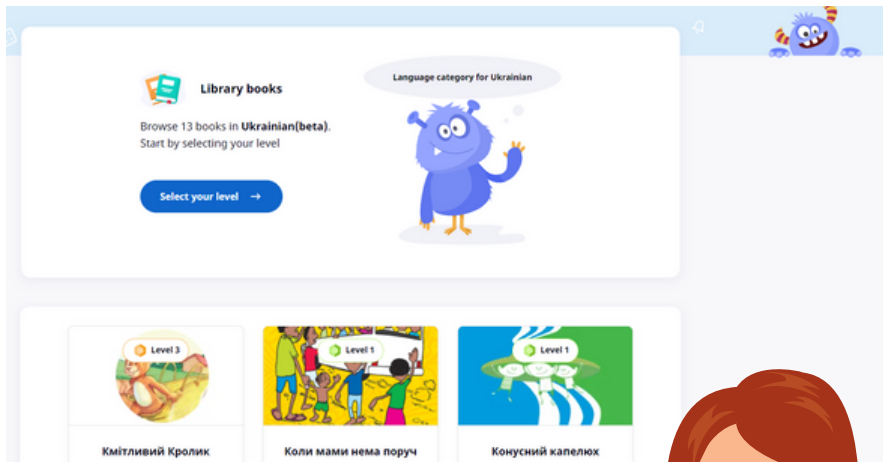
Many playrooms remain closed, and staffing has been difficult. However, play specialists note that while there has been fewer play materials and spaces, there has been great creativity to keep play going. Where there are play specialists, one to one play and single use toys have kept play alive for children throughout COVID restrictions.

More details on this to come soon.





Resources in Ukrainian



The Children's Rights Alliance have shared some resources - online games and digital books - in Ukrainian. These may be of help to you personally, or while volunteering with any Ukrainian speaking families.

The Global Digital Library also has book in 89 additional languages!

[Resources from All Children Reading](#)

[The Global Digital Library](#)

Thank- you - we couldn't do it without you

A huge thank-you to the Transition Year Students of St. Teresians who came together to produce over 500 colouring packs to be distributed at Crumlin Children's Hospital.

We would also like to thank Bella, Tilly, Charlie and Cara for giving up their time during mid-term break to put together more colouring and activity packs.

The packs bring fun and distraction to children whilst they wait in A&E and the Outpatient Department waiting rooms.

