

## **Playright Channel @ Princess Margaret Hospital**

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Playright Children's Play Association

### **Introduction:**

When you are in a hospital isolation unit, it is important to stay in touch with the world outside, but it is also very difficult to do so, particularly for a child, who is likely to feel the isolation far more keenly than a grown-up. With the great support from Community Chest, hospital, commercial partners and the community, Playright developed a first 'Live TV Channel' at hospital in Hong Kong, called 'Playright Channel @ Princess Margaret Hospital' on 3 April 2006 to change the picture literally.

### **Purpose of the Project:**

Through the project, it can allow children to take an active part in live shows by operating a light and easy to use handheld feedback device that lets them play games with others, answer questions and vote in hospital wide contests. As far as possible, these children can enjoy all the fun and excitement on a level footing with ambulatory patients who are able to go along to the hospital's special TV studio. Through the project, we also encourage the people from different organizations to have performance in the program to show their support and care to the children in hospital.

### **Material & Methods:**

With the kind support from the hospital, there is a specially set channel for the program. Also, with the necessary equipment for filming and the aid of the videophone, we can have direct communication and seeing the child during the program on site. Then, each month's first Thursday afternoon, we will run a 45-minute live TV program for the children on site over the stage and in the 5 pediatric wards.

### **Results:**

Including the trail run program in March 2006, we ran the project for 5 times to 704 children and their families until Aug 2006. From the received questionnaires, it showed that the children were very enjoyable to the performances and interactive games in the programs. For the long-term hospitalization children, they are very treasure this chance to leave the 'clinical setting' in wards to explore the 'outside world', especially for the children who never leave the hospital building. Besides, with the support from different parties, we got equipment, funding, knowledge, manpower and network to run the program.

### **Conclusions:**

This innovative idea in Hong Kong's hospital has growing up. With the positive feedback from different parties, we really are hoping that this live channel can further develop at other hospitals in Hong Kong.