BEDSIDE PLAY HANDBOOK

WHAT IS BEDSIDE PLAY ABOUT?

The bedside play scheme has been set up to allow students to develop skills that are essential when working with children and their parents. We hope that by engaging children in play, we will all be able to have some fun, and also develop our communication and interpersonal skills with children of all ages.

Further, by meeting and talking to families on the wards we hope that students may be able to gain an insight in to what life is like for them, and be able to reflect on these experiences and benefit our future practice as health professionals.

WHERE DO I GO?

The bedside play scheme is based at UHCW on the children’s unit. You can get there very easily by going in to UHCW via the Women’s and Children’s entrance to the hospital. The children’s unit is well signposted. You may need to buzz the ward to let them know you are outside, or someone will be able to let you in if you don’t have access.

WHAT WE CAN DO?

Students can work with, or independently from bedside play specialists on the ward in whichever activity they choose. There is a chillout room with pool tables, a play room, computer game consoles, paints, water, footballs etc available on the wards for the children to play with. Imagination and creativity are welcome and so long as people clean up after themselves (ensuring no sharps nor paints are left lying about) and are safe and sensible, lots of fun is to be had!

DRESS CODE

Students do not need to be in hospital get up to go on the wards, this is not part of a medical rotation! However, sensible clothes and footwear are recommended. Ensure your clothes are suitable; not too tight, not too low cut or short. Clothes should be comfortable and easy to move about in. Bare below the elbows for infection control. No dangly/loop earrings as children may pull on them! Similar rules apply for long necklaces.

PLEASE wear some form of ID badge: be it your Warwick student card, or your hospital ID badges, just so staff and patients know who you are!

HOW TO SIGN UP?

If you are interested in taking part in the scheme, then please do contact the Paediatric society on wmspaedssoc@gmail.com and tell us if you are interested and we can email you a form to sign, and provide you access to our Facebook group.

WHAT THEN?

Once signed up you should be able to have access to our Google calendar; where students can sign up for shifts. When signing up please provide your name and contact number in the space. This is so we know how to contact you if we need to and also to give an idea of who is on the wards and when.

PLEASE sign up for your shifts by the Sunday (12pm) of the week before the one commencing. This is so we can send out an email to the ward with the names and numbers of who to expect on the ward the following week. This is also important for us; so we can send out reminder text messages at the start of the week (Sunday evening) to people who have signed up for shifts. We will provide blocks of time for you to sign up to; no more 3-4 students per block please.

Though we are designing some sort of shift pattern, there are lots of different ward areas for us to go to and staff have said that they are happy to have us on the wards at anytime. However, if you do decide to come on the wards when you find a spare hour or two (e.g. between clinics, cancelled teaching) do please make sure you clearly identify yourself to staff members. Also, don’t tread on each other’s toes!! Students that have an allocated shift will get priority!

HOW DO YOU KNOW I WAS THERE?

On arrival to the Children’s unit there will be an attendance sheet up on the door of the bedside play specialists office (fish tank office). (it is the office opposite outpatients, by a massive fish tank; hence the name.) PLEASE write your name, time in, which ward you are on and time out on there! This is useful for staff so they know who is on the wards at anytime.

We will also put up on the Facebook group a log book, that you should take with you and get signed off by a member of staff on the ward. We will use these log books to get certificates of participation made for you to have as evidence for your portfolio.

In addition to these attendance sheets, we will also be putting out a diary in/around the fish tank office, where we thought it would be good for people to write down their names, who they have seen and what they did in. Then the children can write something that they enjoyed about the session too, and can provide something nice to look back on and also to get some feedback on how we are doing.

WHAT IF I CAN’T MAKE MY SHIFT?

If for whatever reason you can’t make a shift that you have signed up for PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE let people know. As soon as you know you can’t make a shift please let us know asap. (preferably with 24 hours notice so shifts can be offered to other people on the Facebook group)

First priority is the ward: Please email Joan: joanwhitaker@uhcw.nhs.uk to let her know. Or contact the ward directly via UHCW ward 16: 024 7696 7224/ 024 7696 8224. Joan’s bleep is 2595.

Then please tell us! Email us on wmspaedssoc@gmail.com and/or on the Facebook page so someone else can take your shift if they want to.

Think that’s it! Paedssoc hopes you all enjoy Bedside play and feedback is welcome and encouraged! Please let us know how things are going, and any ideas you may have. We want to make this a happy and successful project!