



Edge Hill  
University

- We know that children tend to have a better experience if they know what will happen and can get prepared.
- We know that there isn't always enough information to help children know about what might happen when they come to hospital and how they can make their visit as good as possible.
- There is a lack of evidence directly from children around how they would like to be supported before, during and after a procedure.





- This qualitative project used drama as a creative and participatory research method – to help children explore and construct stories and acts about hospital procedures.
- We held 2 drama workshops with 15 children aged 7-14 years, run by an expert drama teacher.



- Ground rules.
- Improvised fictitious performance and role play prompted by a 'scene'.
  - Scene 1:
  - Scene 2:
  - Scene 3: (X-ray, scan, appointment or blood test)
- Winding down and checking the children were okay.



• Throughout the performances we used freeze frame and hot seat questions to explore:-

- What could make things better?
- How might things be different?
- What is this person thinking/feeling?
- Why did that person say/do that?





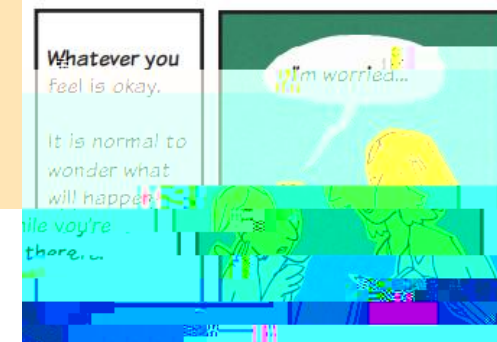




- Many of the scenes acted out were woven together by the children using the words \_\_\_\_\_ to portray their feelings before and during clinical procedures.
- Some scenes with older children involved them disguising their feelings of being scared, as they felt they would be judged by health professionals for "*not being grown up enough*".

@ \_\_\_\_\_ @  
*worried, I am just sitting quietly*  
@

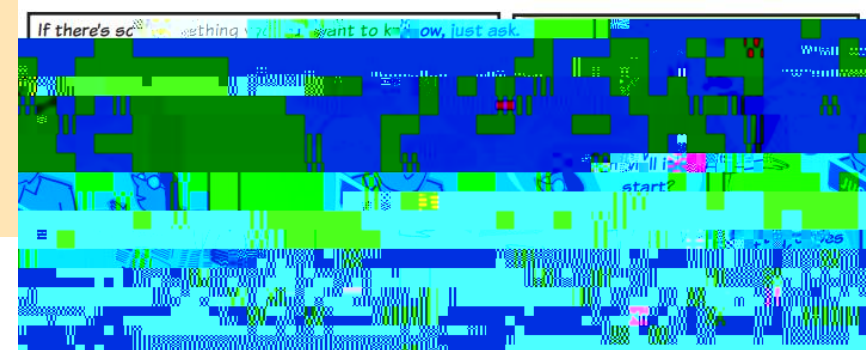
" @  
*just do it anyway. They are like why  
are you scared cos you are older and*





- Many of the scenes involved children acting out a seemingly invisible or small part in the procedures.
  - receptionist counter where a child's name was " " by their parent,
  - health professionals using 'medical' language and directing questions and instructions towards their parent.

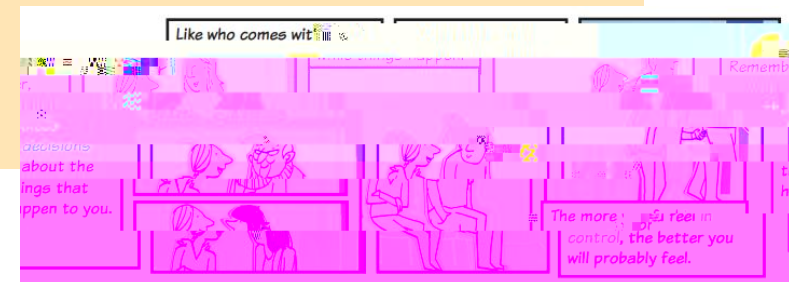
*" use language which I can understand and ask me not my mum".*

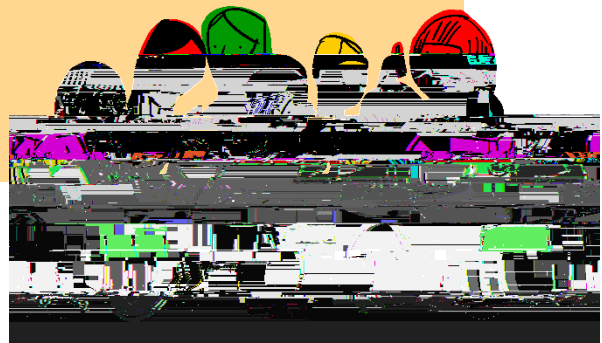


- In some instances children depicted dialogue with health professionals who were not
- Some health professionals were depicted as not always being 100% honest and open.

"...  
will, just be honest and say  
it might just hurt a bit"

) @  
Child: A bit  
) h  
you have had this you are free





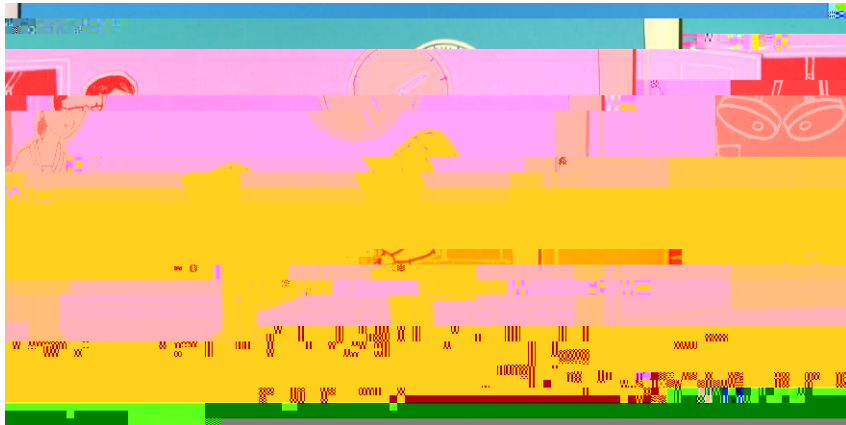
- We wanted to create two short animations (one for health professionals and one for children).
- We worked with what the children had told us were the most important things and drafted a script.
- Then drafted the script again and again.
- We sent the script to the children and their parents to see if it 'made sense' and if the messages were 'true' to what the children had told us.
- Storyboarding



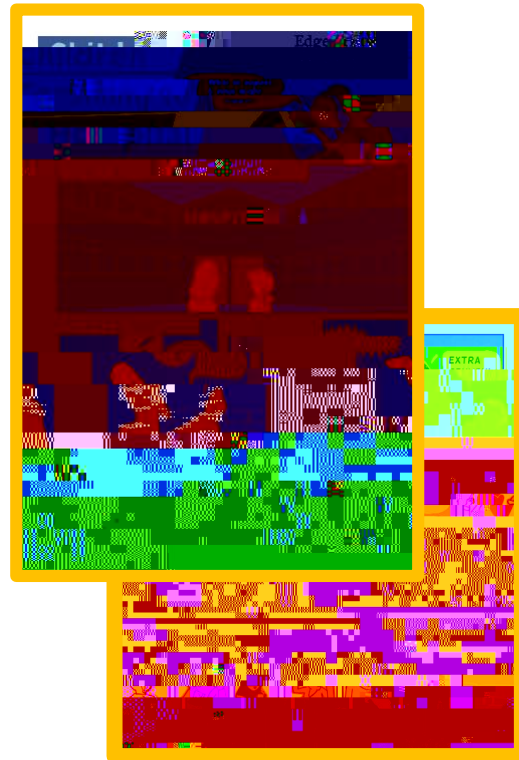
- Children said a comic strip would be useful and engaging.
- We used the screens from the animation as a basis for the comic.
- Some parts worked and some didn't work as well.



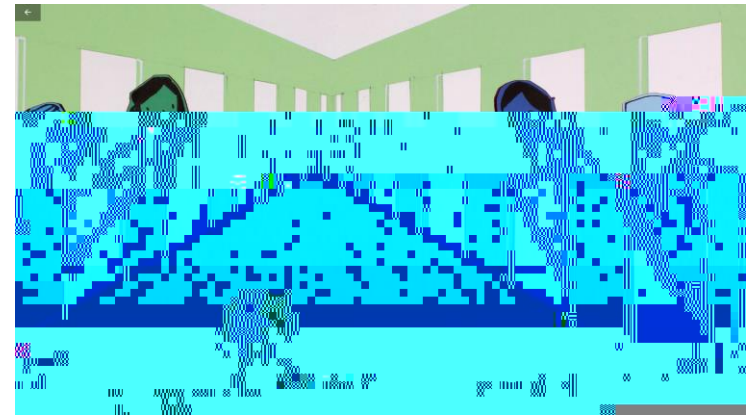
## The animation for children



## The comic strip



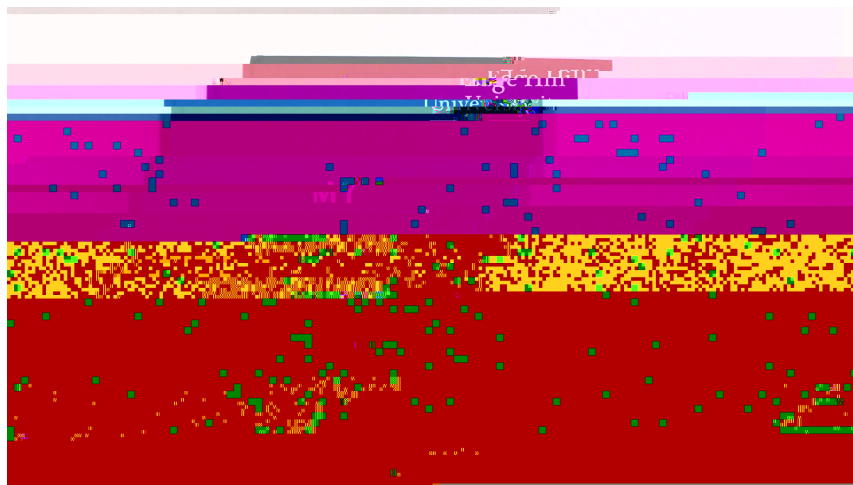
## The animation for health professionals







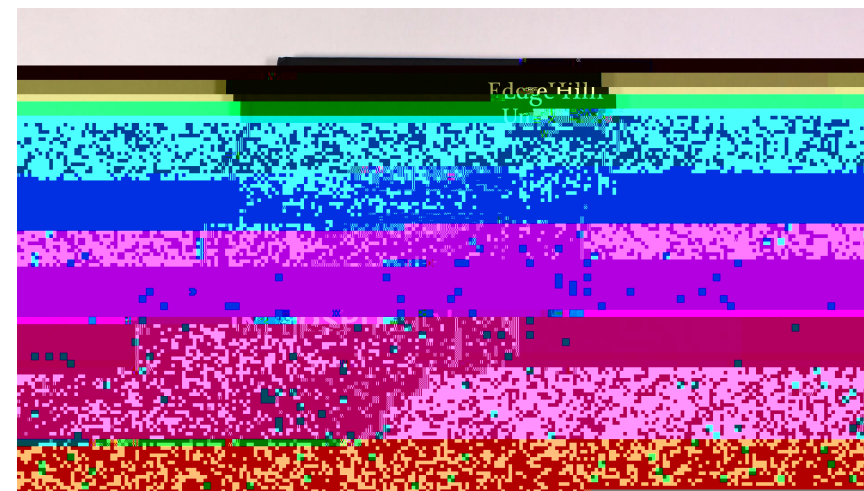
The animation for  
children



The comic strip



The animation for  
health  
professionals



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