

# Children as relatives in the intensive care unit

Monica Andersson  
Erika Backlund Jansson

Thoracic ICU Sahlgrenska  
University Hospital

# Background

- To experience a parent's disease and need of intensive care causes stress and worry for the children as relatives.
- Therefore, it is essential for the health care professionals to identify the children's special needs and their need of empowerment.
- Multidisciplinary team

# Aim

- The aim of work was to improve the individual care for children visiting their parents or relatives at the intensive care unit.
- A second aim was to increase the knowledge of health care professionals concerning the need and support of children as relatives.

# Implementation

- A special training for staff.
- Information has been gathered and presented on a special web page.
- Age-appropriate information.
- Children are offered a individual dialogue with the health care professionals.
- Visit in the ICU before surgery, children are also welcome.



# NETWORK



Hospital school

Center for  
Childrens right to  
Health

Hospital Church

GUCH - Growen  
up heart desease  
patients

Play therapy

Curator

Patient coordinator-  
transplantation

These are the resources we can  
offer, depending on the needs

# Child friendly visit in the ICU





- We don't have any age limit for visitors
- We have two new family rooms and one waiting room in the ICU

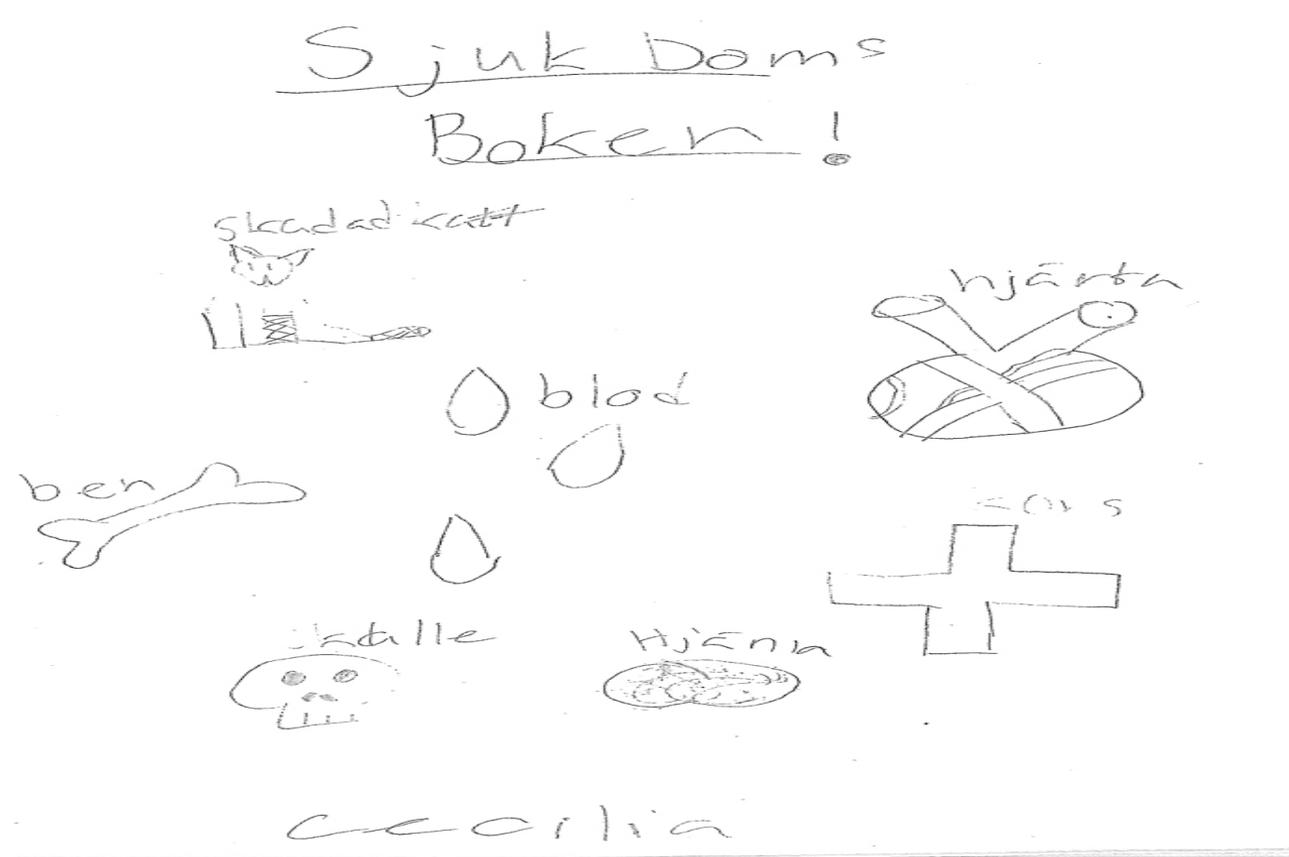
# The Intensive care room



# "Play hospital" in the family room



# The girls hospital diary



# The meeting between the child and toracic surgeon



# The sick giraffe with a crooked neck

Små djursvctrinären  
namn: Greta  
sjukdom: snehals och lbrytt ben  
Djur: Giraf

ägare: Jessica Bergtsson  
tel: 0367-583012  
gata: Sdinspävägen 3b

Vad måste man göra åt det:  
Operera in de halskotar som låsnat  
och gipsa benet.

Nu analyserar vi de sakerna som gjorde så  
girafan fick snea halskotor...och de var  
stenar som gjorde att dem blev snea

Bild när vi  
analyserar

blodprov  
↓  
(blodet är bra)



# The sick Lion with a heart disease



# Later

Meeting the girl and her mother afterwards



# The girl was seen by the multidisciplinary team



# What can you think of.....

- Offer age-appropriate information
- The health care professionals involved in the treatment and decisions give the best information
- Important with proper documentation about the given information
- Adapt the language to each age and make it easy for the youngest
- Show confidence and try to solve problems that occurs
- Think about consequences and never promise anything you won't be able to handle or arrange.



# Working together

Elevhälsan



Socialjouren



# Conclusion

- We believe in the importance of seeing and responding to children who are relatives to prevent illness and discomfort for those children.





THANK YOU  
for your attention!

Any questions ???