

# Kid's Toilet Talk



Thank you very much to everyone who attended our recent workshop at Thackray Medical Museum on 30th September 2017!

We really feel that children's continence is an important area to understand and explore, which is also shown by the fantastic turnout we had on the day (a total of 22 children and 19 family members), with participants travelling from as far as Scotland and Wales!

We really appreciate you sharing your time, experiences, knowledge and ideas with us – we learned a lot and had a lot of fun meeting you all.

We hope you did too!

## Here are some of the key issues we learned about from our expert panel of children and families:

- Toilets – sometimes public toilets can be messy, unclean or have no toilet tissue. Some toilets can be unsuitable for the children's' needs (i.e. on a campsite or a plane) and the unfamiliarity of toilets on holiday (for example) can be a problem.
- The desire for secrecy about the condition and methods of managing it.
- Children's worries about appearing different to their peers.
- The unfairness of the interruption of needing to visit the toilet frequently, or being busy and forgetting to go to the toilet in time.
- Children becoming anxious if they see their parents are feeling stressed by their incontinence.

These key lessons, and many others gathered from the fantastic materials generated on the day, are already helping to shape the landscape of research in this area. Sarah King, our IMPRESS project manager, has presented the work at a recent Bladder and Bowel UK Paediatric Study Day, and Dr Peter Culmer (IMPRESS Principal Investigator) and Gemma Wheeler (TITCH Research Coordinator) will be talking about the workshop at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' 11th edition of the Incontinence: The Engineering Challenge conference later this month.

**We're very excited to spread the word about the brilliant work done by our delegates and mini delegates!**

# Next Steps!

Our illustrator, Chris Redford, has created a comic book to present our findings from the day in a fun and engaging way.

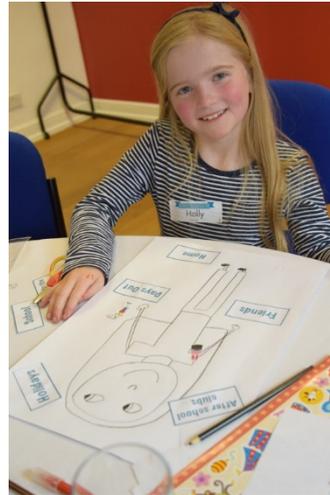
[Download the Kid's Toilet Talk Comic](#)

We would love to get your feedback, whether you were able to attend the workshop or not!

Chris' comic sheet from the workshop is also available to download and print to complete at home - perfect for a rainy day, or as a useful tool to talk with children about their continence issues. If you're happy to send us a scan of any completed worksheets we'd love to learn more about how children think about their continence, or to hear if this was a useful exercise for you!

We also hope to make the other workshop tools publicly available via a Creative Commons license in the near future. We feel they would be easily adapted to help discuss a variety of healthcare issues, and would be very interested to hear about how they are used in different contexts!

Finally, we are also looking for funding to explore turning some of the children's ideas and inventions from the workshop into a reality, so watch this space!



## We want to hear from you!

If you have anything you'd like to share with us about the Kids Toilet Talk workshop (good or bad!), or any ideas/issues that came to mind after the event, we would very much like to hear from you.

Please feel free to email Sarah King on:

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