

Spring 2022

Acheeva Beds give comfort to children with special needs



MedEquip4Kids has provided another two Acheeva Beds for Lancasterian School in Manchester, a specialist school for children aged 3-16 with special educational needs including physical difficulties, complex medical conditions and communication needs. When we visited the school we met 12-year-old Omari, a pupil in Willow Class. At the age of two, Omari was diagnosed with a degenerative condition, which caused him to rapidly lose function. Due to his limited mobility he has to lie in a horizontal position and requires supportive postural equipment to ensure that he is comfortable. Omari responds well to voices and he uses a head switch that enables him to communicate his choices. For the last four years Omari has used an Acheeva Bed for most of his time in school. Lying



in the same position for more than an hour causes him pain, so he has to be repositioned regularly. Because the bed can be adjusted and tilted, it makes it easier for staff to change his height and angle as required. Omari is able to lie on the bed while participating in the class activities at eye level with his classmates, which improves his learning and helps to give him a sense of inclusion. The new Acheeva Beds will benefit more children like Omari, improving their physical comfort and emotional wellbeing.

We did it!



A new look for **MedEquip4KIDS**

Last month we were thrilled to launch our new website, which includes a sleek new logo and updated strapline. A massive thank you goes to Gary, Paul and the team at Cultivate Creative in St Helens for revitalising our charity brand. We were able to invest in the new site thanks to a grant from the VINCI Foundation, which was achieved through our corporate sponsor Nuvia, a nuclear specialist firm which is part of the VINCI Group.

Chris Medlock, Corporate Communications Manager at Nuvia says: "Following the award of funding through the VINCI Foundation, it has been an absolute pleasure supporting MedEquip4Kids with the development of their new website. I have seen first-hand the excellent projects and activities they support, the positive impact in supporting the health of children and babies and the incredible mental health workshops they do through the Hummingbird Project."

A special mention also to Mark Evans and his 10-year-old twins Ruben and Elena for introducing us to Nuvia. Mark and his family have been fundraising for us for two years and are enabling us to provide a wireless heart monitor for the birth centre at Warrington Hospital to help keep mum and baby safe during labour and birth.



Switch-adapted toys help kids learn to play

Acorns Primary School in Preston caters for pupils aged 2-11 with learning difficulties, including severe learning difficulties and autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD). Many of the pupils experience difficulties acquiring early play skills, which are fundamental to a child's development. A switch-adapted toy allows children with disabilities to interact using a button press, eye blink, mouth puff or other motion. The child can use their switch to tell their toy to move, make sounds or flash lights.

Thanks to a grant from the Dorothy Pamela Smith CIO, we were able to fund a range of switch-adapted toys for Acorn Primary School. Sophie Martindale, a teacher at the school, says: "The children love the lights and movement many of these switch toys have and are highly motivated to explore and investigate how to make them work. They have been great for pupils to develop their understanding of cause and effect and we have also noticed improved concentration and engagement when using them."

We need your help!

Help keep new babies warm in their cots

We're providing heated mattresses to care for babies in neo natal intensive care units at Saint Mary's Hospital, Wythenshawe Hospital and North Manchester General Hospital. The transition from an incubator into a cot gives parents more contact with their baby, which is so valuable to their wellbeing. However, sick and preterm babies are not always able to control their body temperature, and maintaining their temperature in the cot is vitally important to reduce the risk of hypothermia. These special heated mattresses will ensure that heat is evenly distributed and the controller will allow the nurse to gradually reduce the temperature as the baby becomes more stable.



Play time at Nottingham Children's Hospital

We are still in need of funds for games and toys for Nottingham Children's Hospital. The resources will be used across all 12 wards, benefiting over 1,000 children each year. Jamie-Lee Phillipson, Hospital Play Specialist says: "Our role is to normalize a child's stay in hospital as much as possible, and the one thing all children know how to do is play. Having good facilities really will help aid their recovery and help to create a positive experience for the duration of their stay."

Reduced waiting times for ear treatment

The paediatric ward and assessment unit at Ormskirk and District General Hospital treats over 30,000 children annually and numbers are increasing each year, creating more demand for equipment and treatment space. Auroscopes are vital pieces of equipment for examining children's ears. The current ones used on the ward are fixed to the wall, which limits access and can delay assessment and treatment. A portable auroscope could be taken to another treatment room on the ward, improving waiting times and reducing discomfort for young patients.



Leaving a gift to a charity in your Will is one of the most wonderful and significant ways you can continue to transform the lives of others beyond your lifetime. For more information call 0161 798 1600

If you can help us fund any of these projects, visit

www.medequip4kids.org.uk

Fundraising News

Thanks to all our Trafford Centre coin count volunteers

We are very grateful to The Trafford Centre for our two-year partnership, which to date has raised over £12,935 for MedEquip4Kids. Recently we were joined by seven volunteers from Sage UK and two of our community fundraisers, who helped us to wash, sort and count coins from The Trafford Centre's fountains at our bi-monthly coin count. Thank you so much for your hard work to help us raise vital funds.



It's time to get quacking!

After two years of postponements due to COVID-19, we're delighted to announce that our annual Duck Race is back at Salford Quays this Friday 15th April. As well as sponsoring a duck in the race, you'll be able to enjoy a range of food stalls and fun family activities. All proceeds will help us support children in hospital. We're also looking for businesses to sponsor a 'Mega Duck' to take part in the corporate race - if you'd like to get involved, email info@medequip4kids.org.uk.



Our Duck Race is back!



MedEquip4KIDS

Dates for your diary

15 April

Quays Duck Race

11 June

Lake District Challenge

22 June

Heaton Park "Chase the Sun"

9 July

Peak District Challenge

Contact MedEquip4Kids at:
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