

Applied Theatre in Paediatrics: Can Participatory Performance Mitigate Educational, Emotional and Social Consequences of Missing out School during Hospitalisation?

Abstract

This paper relays the findings of the evaluation of an applied theatre project for children in hospital as perceived by hospital teachers. A mixed qualitative approach was used. Data were analysed using thematic analysis to explore the teachers' views on children's engagement with learning and the improvement of the hospital experience as a whole through applied theatre. The article presents examples of children's stories that illustrate the findings. The study concludes that applied theatre in paediatrics can engage children with hospital tuition and learning during treatment; improve the management of emotions; help them relax and communicate with the outside world.

Published in Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance (2021), Open Access: [DOI: 10.1080/13569783.2021.1940914](https://doi.org/10.1080/13569783.2021.1940914)

Bios

SPEAKER: Professor Persephone Sextou Professor of Applied Theatre for Health and Wellbeing, Director of the Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health.

Dr Persephone Sextou is a Professor in Applied Theatre for Health & Wellbeing and Director of the Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts & Health at Canterbury Christ Church University. Persephone is adjunct researcher at Griffith University, Australia, and a leader expert in Theatre for Children in Hospitals internationally. She has a successful record of publications and external income generation in partnership with NHS and community collaborators. She is member of Editorial Boards for peer-reviewed Journals and the author of 4 monographs. The most recent is 'Theatre for Children in Hospital. The Gift of Compassion'. [Link to Full Profile](#)

DESIGNATED ACADEMIC: Associate Professor Sydney Cheek-O'Donnell University of Utah, USA.

Sydney Cheek-O'Donnell is Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Utah. Her research focuses on how theatre can support the health and well-being of individuals and communities, and she is a faculty collaborator with the University of Utah Center for Excellence in ELSI Research. [Link to Full Profile](#)