

History

The first tour

In 2013, Harvey Buster Baldwin, a little boy with Leukaemia visited the Worthing General Hospital Blood Transfusion Laboratory. He had asked where all of his blood samples went and what happened to them, so Malcolm Robinson showed him his blood being tested and Harvey got to see his blood cells under a microscope.



What the tour did

Harvey sadly lost his battle 18 months later, but at his farewell, it was obvious that the tour had helped Harvey cope with his illness and it meant a great deal to him. He wore his lab coat often, lording it over the doctors, and used his pretend ID card to go through doors (he didn't know the nurses were letting him through).

Malcolm found out that another 6 children also would benefit from a tour, and Harvey's Gang was created two weeks later.

What is it?

The Harvey's Gang Tour

The child enjoys looking around the laboratory, stress free, with no phobia, seeing blood samples being processed, meeting all of the team of people and machines that process their samples.



They look down microscopes and see red cells, white cells and platelets, they "feel" the bags of blood. Plasma and platelets (or yellow triangles / chicken soup)



Benefits

Feedback

A Harvey's gang tour allows a child to have "a good day in hospital" where nothing is expected or demanded of them.



Charlotte used to be needle-phobic, but after understanding what the samples are for, she stopped minding having samples taken, and now enjoys taking them to the laboratory.

Giving the child an understanding of what is happening to them can increase their sense of ownership and make the whole process easier to handle for them and the whole family.