



Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)

“I don’t remember being taken to intensive care but I do remember waking up there. Apparently I had been asleep for a long time because the doctors had given me a lot of medicine to make me sleepy.

Mum was there holding my hand and Nurse Anna was there too. I couldn’t talk because I still had the breathing tube in my mouth and I was on a very noisy machine called a ventilator. There were lots of tubes and wires all around me and I didn’t really understand what was happening. I only knew I was safe because my Mum and Nurse Anna were there otherwise I would have been really frightened.

After a few more days they took the breathing tube out of my mouth so that I could talk to mum. It was very difficult because my throat was sore and I couldn’t think of what I wanted to say.

My arms were weak and I couldn’t sit up or stand up. I had to stay in intensive care for a long time after.

I couldn’t go to the toilet and I had a special tube so that I could go to the toilet in a special bag. At one time I couldn’t go to the toilet at all because my kidneys had stopped working and I had to go onto another machine so that my blood could be cleaned.

I always seemed to have nurses giving me antibiotics into my arm. It started to sting a few times so I was glad when I didn’t need to have more antibiotics. I also had to have a drip because I couldn’t eat or drink anything.

I was also visited by a physiotherapist every day so that I could try and get some strength back in my arms and legs.

I finally left intensive care 18 days after I first went there! I was then taken to the ward where I have happier memories because I wasn’t so sick and mum wasn’t so worried.”

