

# In the Spotlight



**Name:** Johnathan

**JOB TITLE:** **HEALTH PLAY SPECIALIST**  
**THE GRANGE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**  
**CHILDREN'S UNIT**

**Qualifications & Experience:** Qualified Nursery Nurse  
Qualification in Play for Sick Children  
Health Care Play Specialist  
Foundation Degree  
24 years experience (14 years working as a Play Specialist, 10 years as a Play Worker)  
Previously worked for Camp America and The Prince's Youth Trust

**Role includes:**

- Supporting children in hospital through play
- Prepare and support children with anything that is going to happen whilst they are in hospital (blood tests, operations, scans etc) in a way they understand
- Use normalising plan to gain trust - this helps gives the child a voice, choice, control and respect
- Developing coping mechanisms with children so they can cope better in hospital and externally
- Anxiety management and coping with fears and phobia
- 100% child advocate
- Support long-term issues

“The biggest joy is when you see the difference you’ve made to a child’s life. Every day is different and you never know what’s going to happen.”