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Technology helps hospital early years education to share young patients' learning with their parents

Piggles Early Years, which provides early years education to children whilst they are patients at Southampton Children's Hospital, is helping families stay up to date with their child's learning through the use of new technology. Tapestry, a childhood education platform software, is enabling educators to capture key moments of a child's development and to share these securely with parents and carers.

Now supported by Southampton Hospitals Charity, Piggles Early Years was launched in 2018 by Caroline and Edward Martin in memory of their daughter Harriet, to provide early years education to children who were receiving hospital care and were unable to attend traditional early years provision. It's a vitally important part of children's development and learning and Piggles helps to ensure it remains a focus alongside young patients' clinical needs.

The partnership with Tapestry is helping Piggles to create a picture of each child's unique development and to share this easily with families. Lorraine Smith, Practitioner at Piggles Early Years has helped to introduce the technology and explained how it was working: *"Tapestry means I can quickly upload pictures, videos and comments which help me to record their development and learning. Parents and carers can securely access their child's Tapestry account and this means they can stay in touch, even when they're not together. This means a great deal. They also tell me that they really appreciate being able share their child's special learning moments with extended family members, which is wonderful."*

Ben Case, a former early years educator and now Education Adviser at Tapestry, has been working with Piggles to provide access to the software and has found it an inspiring project: *"It's been a privilege to work with the team at Piggles to help support the amazing work they do. Tapestry is designed to help educators and families work together to support a child's learning which feels particularly relevant in this case."*

Tapestry is also helping the team at Piggles to make the most of their time as Lorraine Smith explained: *"Previously I had to hand write observations and print photos for a paper booklet to capture each child's development and learning. Now, I can tap on a photo or video and it goes*



straight into a child's online journal. I can type in observations as I see them and keep up to date with parents' comments as well. I spend less time doing admin and have more time for the children and their families."

ENDS

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Notes to editors

About Tapestry

Tapestry is the original, and leading, childhood education platform, providing an online learning journal and management system for early years settings and primary schools. It helps educators to celebrate children and engage families in mainstream and SEND provision. Tapestry keeps parents and carers in touch with how their child is doing, enables educators to build a picture of each child's development and interests, and provides the tools for the daily running of a setting.

Tapestry is used in more than 40 countries and supports over 14,000 schools and settings - more than any other platform. It was launched in 2012 by the edtech company Foundation Stage Forum and is based in Lewes, UK.

Tapestry is the brainchild of husband and wife team, technologist Steve Edwards and educator Dr Helen Edwards. Both regularly write and speak about education and technology, and they continue to support initiatives like the APPG for Childcare and Early Education. Tapestry has been shortlisted for the Bett Awards and TeachPrimary Awards and most recently was ranked number 3 in Business Cloud's EdTech 50.

For more information visit: <https://tapestry.info>

About Piggles Early Years

Piggles Early Years operates at Southampton Children's Hospital and is the first hospital-based nursery. It is supported by the Southampton Hospitals Charity which helps to fund projects which go beyond what NHS budgets can cover.

For more information visit: <https://southamptonhospitalscharity.org/>