

# TREASURED MEMORIES



**CASE STUDY**



**The aim of Wooden Spoon funded projects is to enhance the lives of children and young people with disabilities or living in disadvantage in local communities across the UK and Ireland.**

## HOW YOUR FUNDRAISING HAS SUPPORTED BEREAVED FAMILIES

For some families, the death of their child is sudden and unexpected. For others, it is the outcome they have been told to expect for weeks, months or years. Whatever the circumstance, nothing can prepare you for the death of your child.

The Wooden Spoon-funded bereavement suite at Edinburgh's Royal Hospital for Children and Young People has supported 13 families since the start of the year.

Wooden Spoon has funded soft furnishings, furniture decoration and lighting to put families at as much ease as possible.

The suite offers parents a comfortable, private space to be together and stay close to their child. During the pandemic, the comfort and support offered by the suite has been even more important during their bereavement.

One family who had lost their son after many weeks in critical care spent time on the sofa talking, drinking tea and being together.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the time they had together in critical care was limited so the space and time the suite gave them was so important. Their daughter would come in with them and one afternoon the family even made jewellery together. It's not uncommon for positive memories like this to be made in the suite.

If the hospital knows a child is in palliative care, staff will encourage the parents to carry out memory-making activities which makes happy non-clinical memories to look back upon and gives the family items to hold and treasure for years after the death of the child.

**"After Edie died, we were given a memory box. At the time we didn't realise how important it would be to our family. We have so many memories of Edie in the box that we just wouldn't have without it."**

**Edie's Mum**

When there is no time to do this before the child's death, these activities will take place in the comfort of the bereavement suite.

Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity would like to thank Wooden Spoon and all its friends for their support in providing this special room for families to be together, feel safe and be supported through the toughest of times.

Edie's mum explains how such work helps her family:

"After Edie died, we were given a memory box. At the time we didn't realise how important it would be to our family. We have so many memories of Edie in the box that we just wouldn't have without it.

"The team guided us as to what we might like to include. One of our most treasured memories is a card with mine, my husband, our son and Edie's handprints on it. You take for granted all the time you think you have to make memories, but we won't get to make any new ones with our girl.

"We've also got a teddy bear for the box. Edie has the same teddy and we keep ours in the box. But it comes everywhere with us we go as a family and is with us when things are a bit difficult.

"We would never have thought of giving Edie something to keep when she died, something that we have too that will always keep us together."