

Children's perceptions of hospitalisation

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The aim of the study was to gain an understanding of what six children age 8-10 years, who had a recent admission to a children's ward in a district general hospital thought were the ideal qualities of a child health nurse

Phenomenology was selected as the research design. Data collection was undertaken in the child's home. A combination of semi structured interviews and the draw and write technique was used. Seven themes were identified: they say really nice things, comes quickly, happy, asked what I wanted, beautiful, polite, special.

The findings are specific to these six children, although it provides implications for all health professionals who have contact with children. Although not the remit of the study, it became apparent when undertaking the research that one of the skills appreciated by the children was those child health nurses who seemed to be able to very quickly build up a rapport with the child. Research is being planned which will further explore this aspect.