



Examples of putting children's rights into action at Ty Hafan

Individualised care for young people is a central tenet of our service delivery here at Ty Hafan. Wherever possible we try hard to include young people in decisions about their care and leisure needs regardless of their communication skills or cognitive ability.

Each young person who comes to stay with us has their room individually personalized for their stay. They all have a name plate for the bedroom door that they will have had some say in designing or making. Their likes and interests are taken into account when making up the bed and room. Appropriate or favourite bedding, posters etc are used to make the room feel homely and familiar. Craft and or art work that they may have done on previous visits will be displayed in their room and they are welcome to bring in personal possessions in order to make their rooms as comfortable as possible and to 'put their own stamp' on the room.

One of our play workers who has a special interest in working with adolescents can arrange to visit the young people at home prior to a stay in order to ask them how we can make the best of their stay. He will talk to them about what they want from the service and try where possible to arrange special events/ activities to meet their wishes.

At Ty Hafan we have an 'adolescent den' which is a designated space for the sole use of the adolescents. It is equipped with the latest 'gaming equipment' and it is very much a space where they can hang out and just be typical teenagers. Within this room there are specially designed sofas which enable hoists to get under them', this facilitates the young people in being able to get out of their wheelchairs and sit on sofas to play computer games just like any other young person.

One of the services we provide at Ty Hafan is support to families around planning for end of life care and decisions about medical intervention. If a young person wants to be involved in these discussions and making these decisions we have the expertise to be able to facilitate this. Indeed there have been several examples of young people drawing up their own plans for what care they would want at the end of their lives and their own very detailed and very personal funeral plans.

Tracy Jones - Senior Practitioner, Family Support Team, www.tyhafan.org