

# CHILDREN'S INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE PERIOPERATIVE PERIOD: A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Dr Kristina Ooi, Dr Rosemarie Carrick, Dr Elin Jones & Dr Katy Miller  
Birmingham Children's Hospital, UK

Corresponding author:  
kristina.ooi1@nhs.net



## BACKGROUND

Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH) is a tertiary paediatric surgical centre providing around 21,000 procedures per year across a wide variety of specialties, including liver, cardiac, transplant and burns.

Caring for individual requirements in our patient population is clearly an essential aspect of working in a paediatric centre. We wanted to identify whether the needs of children with individual requirements were being adequately met in the perioperative period.

## AIMS

We designed and carried out a survey asking about whether we were meeting the individual requirements of children undergoing elective surgery at BCH. This had approval from the Patient Experience Department at BCH.

In addition, this formed part of BCH's application for the 'Anaesthesia Clinical Services Accreditation (ACSA) Scheme, run by the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

## METHOD

Survey distributed to parents of children undergoing elective surgery at BCH. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was a mixture of returned written surveys and in-person interviews.

[Survey available to view at <https://tinyurl.com/82u6repn>]

## RESULTS

We received 35 replies. 94% of respondents said that their child's needs were fully met. Movement issues are the most common additional need (22.2% respondents of those with individual requirements). If a child had one additional need, this is likely to be associated with multiple special needs.

Language was also a potential issue but this appears to have been largely met with the presence of interpreters.

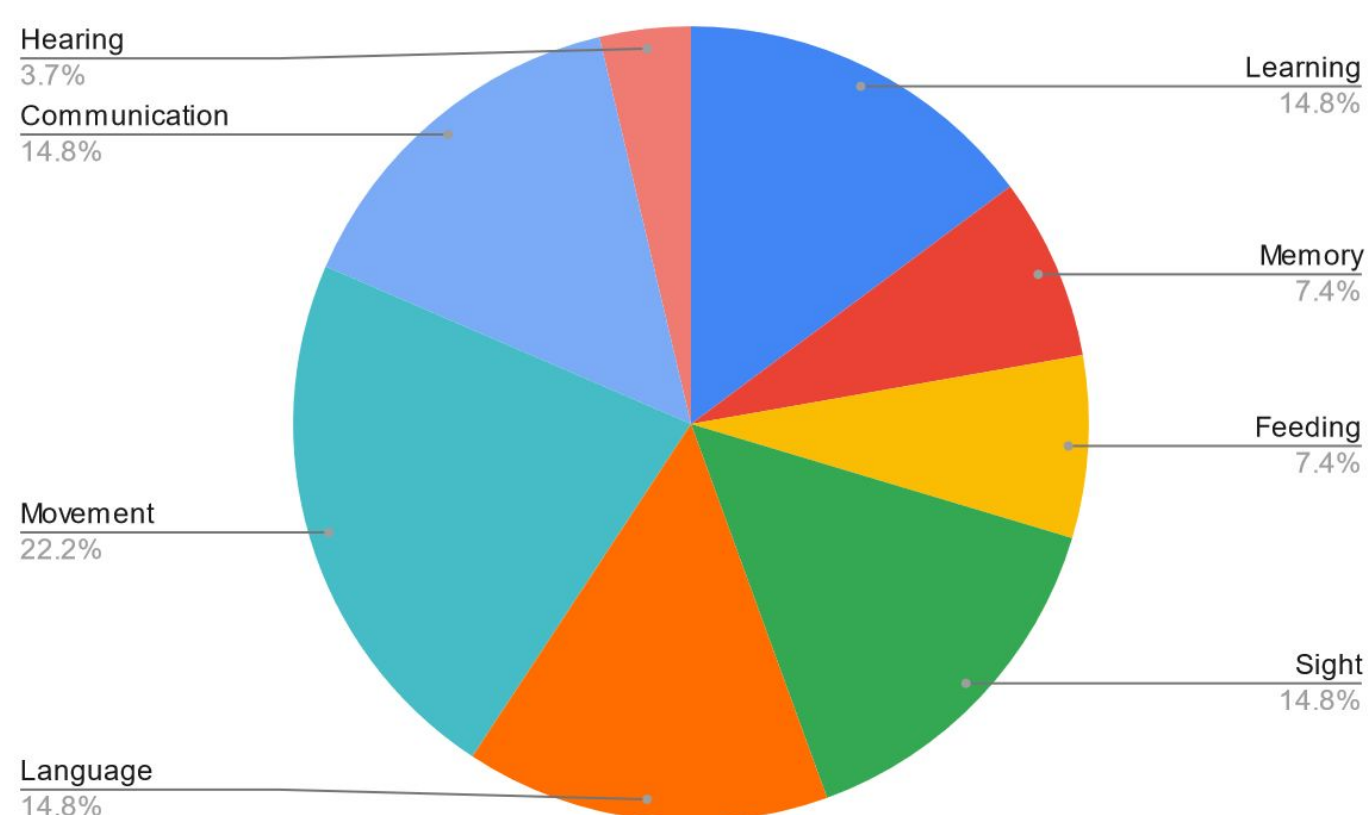


Fig. 1: Chart showing different needs identified

## KEY POINTS

- Identifying children with specific requirements in the perioperative period is vital for ensuring that staff can meet such needs.
- This includes preparing for surgery, as well as support in the recovery area and postoperative ward.
- Consideration should be given to those in whom English is not their first language.
- Repeating the survey will be essential for continual service evaluation.