

# Katie's Garden

A little girl's experiences of cancer



"Katie's Garden" is based on the experiences  
of a real little girl called Katie. She is now  
9 years old and very healthy.

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Hello! My name is Katie.



This is my mummy and my daddy.



This is my baby sister Carys.



And this is my garden.  
I like to play in my garden.  
Daddy and I plant seeds and I water  
them to make them grow.



This is me splashing in the bath.  
Mummy sees a lump on my tummy.  
She tells me that tomorrow we will go  
and see the doctor.



I went with Mummy and Daddy to see the Doctor. This is the doctor feeling my tummy. He tells me that I need to go to hospital.



I feel scared.

Daddy tells me not to worry. "We'll have lots of fun there", he says.

"Hospitals are places that help people get better".



This is me at the hospital having an ultrasound scan. Mummy has had lots of scans of her tummy when I was in there, so she tells me it won't hurt at all. She's right!

We call it jelly on the belly. (Not that sort of jelly, silly.) The doctor gets jelly everywhere and I always have a bath when I get home afterwards.

Here I am  
inside a big  
white tube.  
It is very noisy.  
It is taking more  
pictures of my tummy.  
I close my eyes and think about  
my garden.  
I wonder if the flowers have grown.



The pictures of my tummy show the  
doctor where the lumps are. The  
doctor tells me that there is  
something not quite right growing  
inside my tummy. He says it is called a  
Wilms' tumour.



"Is it like a flower?" I ask.

"No", he says. "It's like a weed. We need to take it out of your tummy to make you better again."



"I don't want to stay here," I say. "I want to go home".

"I'll stay with you." says Daddy. "And there are lots of other children to play with. Look at all the toys."



In the middle of the night Daddy falls off his little bed next to me.  
(CRASH WHOOPS! )

This is me having my special medicine. It's helping fight the tumour in my tummy. I call it chemo because I can't say its proper name! It travels through a special tube straight into my chest. I call it "Mr. Wiggly". It looks like a long wiggly worm. I keep it in a little bag around my neck.



The nurse gives me a teddy. He has a lump in his tummy too and also has a Mr Wiggly. Teddy goes everywhere with me.

I make some new friends at hospital.



This is Sophia. She has a lump in her tummy too but it's a different sort of tumour. Sophia has to have radiotherapy as well as chemo. She has to lie very still during radiotherapy but the x-rays don't hurt and they make her tumour get smaller.



This is me on a funny bed with wheels. The sleep doctor gives me an injection and I have a special sleep. (Night night zzzz) When I wake up Mummy and Daddy are sitting by my bed.

"Lump gone?" I ask.

"Yes", says Mummy. "But you still need to stay here a little while".

Outside the sun is shining.  
I wish I was playing in my garden.  
I wonder what the flowers look like.



This is me going home.  
I can't wait to see my garden.



This is me playing in my garden.  
The garden is full of sunflowers.  
I think they are my favourite flower in  
all the world.

I still have to go back  
to the hospital every  
week for more chemo.  
It makes my hair fall  
out. I don't mind.  
Mummy and I go  
to buy lots of  
lovely hats, pink  
and flowery of course!





Sometimes the chemo makes me feel sick and sometimes I really am sick!



Daddy says "Got to make sure all the weeds are dealt with so you can grow up into a pretty little flower!"

One day I go back in the big white noisy tube. The doctor says there are no more lumps inside me. The doctor tells me I can stop chemo. I still have to go back to the hospital every now and then for jelly on the belly . But basically I'm better now. My hair has grown back and I have to say goodbye to Mr Wiggly. My body still has a few scars. I'm very proud of them. Look!



I hope you  
enjoy being in  
hospital  
as much  
as me.

Lots of love

Katie.

