

Lotte, In Her Father's Words

She spent the first three years of her life in hospital having one treatment after the next, and it left her little heart filled with fear. Hear from Lotte's father how your support – and the friendship of some very special ponies – changed her future...

Written By Achim Gottstein, Lotte's Dad

Our daughter Lotte began equine therapy almost two years ago at the age of four. Lotte is visually impaired and had been diagnosed as well with a serious illness soon after she was born in 2011. She spent the first three years of her life having treatment in Crumlin hospital.

The treatment was thankfully successful. But afterwards Lotte suffered a lot from anxiety as a side effect of the numerous medical interventions.

Easing anxiety

Before starting equine therapy at ChildVision, Lotte showed little interest in animals, and she was quite fearful of even small pets. To our amazement, she almost immediately formed a strong bond with the ponies, Echo most especially. This is entirely owed to the careful guidance and skilled instruction of the ChildVision equine team.

During her weekly sessions, Lotte has learned to horse ride and to partake in horse mounted activities, both of which have

significantly improved her balance and core strength. And the group activities have aided Lotte greatly in developing her turn-taking skills.

The new highlight of her week

Recently Lotte progressed to horse management, which

includes grooming, feeding, and tending for the horses. The added responsibilities of these duties has brought Lotte great confidence and pleasure. Her Wednesday afternoon sessions are now the highlight of her week, and she views the ponies
continued on page 4

Special ChildVision therapy ponies like Echo are helping to change the future for visually impaired children and young people like Lotte thanks to your support.

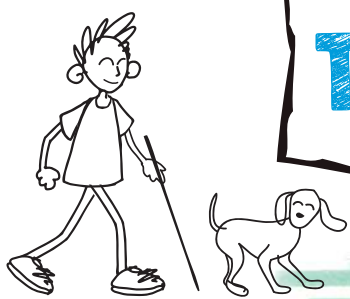


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The Wonderful World of ChildVision



Preview the joys you'll find at our June Garden Party, on your special day at the amazing place you make real for Ireland's disabled blind children — thank you!

- 1 Welcome!** We're thrilled you could attend!
- 2** When tummies start to rumble, you can purchase **Tasty Food** here!
- 3** How fun will this year's **Bouncy Castles** be? Stop here to see!
- 4** Meet our famous therapy horses here for **Pony Rides** on the sensory trail
- 5** Fancy a sweet treat? Find **Ice Cream** here!
- 6** Visit the **Faerie Houses** to make your magical wish
- 7** **'Braille Your Name'**? Yes you can, here – we'll show you how!
- 8** Pop by the **Garden Centre** for spring plants to purchase
- 9** See who's making a splash in the **Duck Pond** here
- 10** How does a child with sight loss learn? Test the tools and technology in staff-led **Early Years interactive workshops** (more details, page 4)
- 11** In **Exploring the Senses workshops**, try your hand at up to 8 activity stations that simulate what's it like to "see" the world differently (more details, page 4)
- 12** Finish your day with a delicious delight – present this newsletter for **FREE Strawberries & Cream!**

➡ **Turn to page 4 for your official Garden Party invitation** and to learn more about special interactive workshops happening that day.

We hope you can join us!



Thank you for being part of the ChildVision family, and for all you do to help Ireland's multi-disabled blind children.

Heartfelt gratitude to ChildVision's own Ruth Brady for graciously lending her time and extraordinary talents to hand-illustrate this beautiful campus map for you. Thank you, Ruth! ❤️

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and staff as her close friends.

Since attending the ChildVision equine therapy, Lotte's self-assurance has grown significantly. Alongside that has come a reduction in her anxiety.

We are immensely thankful to the team at ChildVision for the love and support they have shown to Lotte and our family – we will remain eternally grateful! ♥

Are you able to attend our June Garden Party? Visit the equine therapy ponies helping Lotte and so many other children here as a direct result of your kind donations (see map pgs 2-3). Thank you so very much!



Lotte, meet Lottie!

Not long ago, Lotte and Echo were on hand to meet Lottie Dolls MD Ian Harkin, who pledged a donation of one toy Sirius Pony to ChildVision for every pony purchased on the company's website in the month of March. Big thanks to Lottie Dolls and to the Construction Industry Foundation who pitched in to purchase 50 ponies.

How Would It Feel to be Blind and Disabled? Find Out...

Coming to the Garden Party this June will be two popular staff-led workshops repeated throughout the day:

- **In "The Early Years" workshops**, you'll experience how staff assess and stimulate the sight of visually impaired children as you get to use specialised lights, toys, and incredible learning technology like EyeGaze.



- **In "Exploring the Senses" workshops**, you'll visit up to eight activity stations, such as buttoning while blindfolded and with gloves on, and finding objects through touch alone, to gain a deeper understanding of how even simple tasks feel to children with different disabilities.

OFFERED FREE!

See Garden Party map on pages 2-3 for locations. ♥

June Garden Party: Will You Be Our Guest?

Bouncy castles, braille-your-name, plants to purchase, pony rides, and more... join us for ChildVision's June Garden Party to thank families and friends like you. A free event for young and old, blind and sighted!

When:

Saturday 9th June, 2018
from 12 noon to 4.00pm

Where:

ChildVision, Grace Park
Road, Drumcondra,
Dublin 9 (enter via Gate 3)

Who:

All welcome...
bring your friends!

Admission:

FREE!

SPECIAL SURPRISE:

Bring this newsletter for free strawberries & cream!



ChildVision

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