

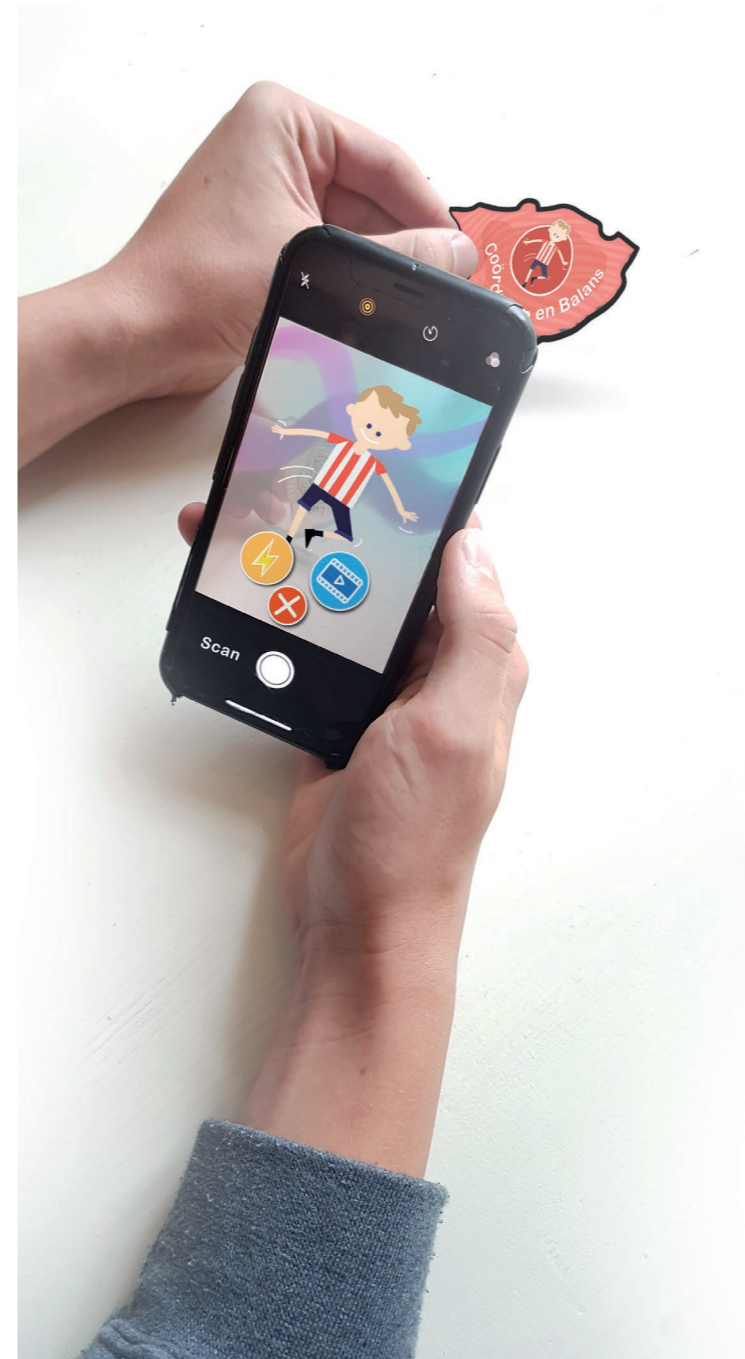
The Brain Self Portrait

Involving young patients in going through the Child Brain Lab, piece by piece

In every children's hospital, clinicians and parents will agree on how important it is to properly involve child patients: They should be part of the conversation that is about their care and the tests they will have to go through.

But what if it's not about one, but about over a dozen tests, all measuring a different part of the immensely complex brain? What if some of these children only just turned 6 and others will have developmental delays? What if these children might not be particularly motivated in the first place? In the new Child Brain Lab that is being set up, all of this applies!

In this context, a concept was developed where children collect interactive pieces to build their own personalized brain puzzle. It splits up the overwhelming amount of information in small and playful pieces: With every test they do, they get a part of the brain that correlates to that test in an age-appropriate manner. In the patient consultations, both the clinician and the child can then refer to the physical pieces and discuss the parts that matter to them.



"We have not always been happy with the way they involve children: Conversations are about them but rarely with them (...) With this concept, you give them the feeling that they are involved and that we are doing this together. (...) You give them a stage to speak up (...) Well thought out!"

-Parents of a child patient
(compilation of quotes)



"I would love it to make my consultations more playful in this way. It also forces me to do it together with the child: All pieces indicate what we are going to talk about at the start of the consult."

-Child neurologist



[About the brain pieces]
"Brilliant, this is the bit I like the most. These pieces allow you to explain certain things at a much younger age. (...) Parents and children are then reminded of the explanation when they see the puzzle at home."

-Pediatrician, specializing in neuro-developmental disorders.



-Did you like puzzling?
"Yes! (...) Because it had me on it!"

-Thomas (Pseudonym), 7 years old



"Mum, you still have to read this one!"
-Haha okay: This bit keeps you in balance, without this piece, you would fall over all the time"
-Acts out the piece and falls over: "Pieew. Like that!"
-Haha right! Just like that!"

-Mother and her 5 year old
interacting with the puzzle



"With this you give them back a form of control which is so important for these children"

-Parents of a child patient

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