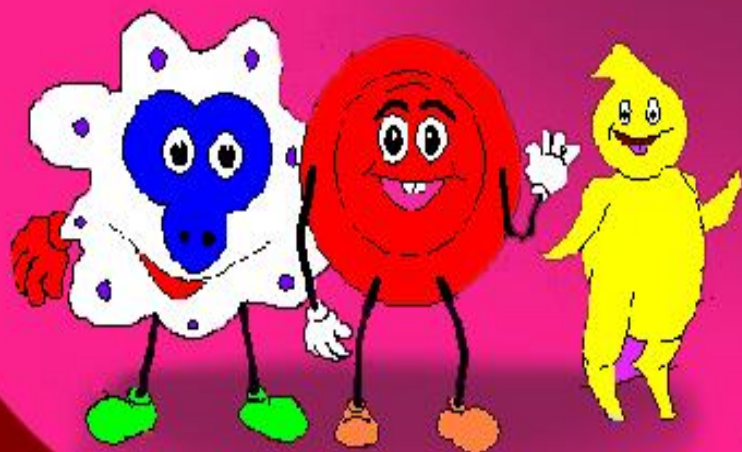
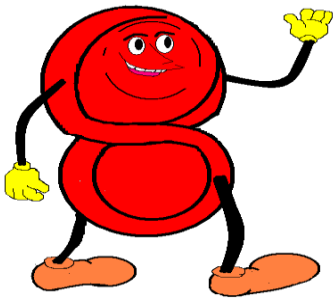


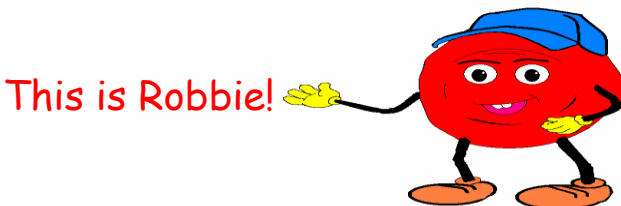
Blood Buddies

A Kids Guide to Blood
Transfusion



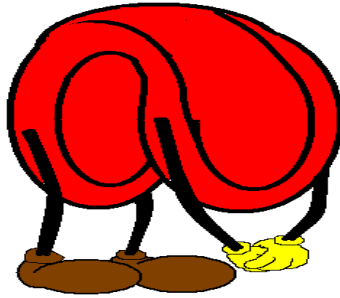


Hi, my name is Ricky and I am a red blood cell that lives in your body. Your body has three types of blood cells, a red blood cell like me, a white blood cell and a platelet cell. There are millions of us which swim around your body helping to keep you safe and healthy. Blood cells grow up in special parts of your bones and when we are all grown up we enter your blood to carry out our very important jobs. Let me introduce you to my buddies:

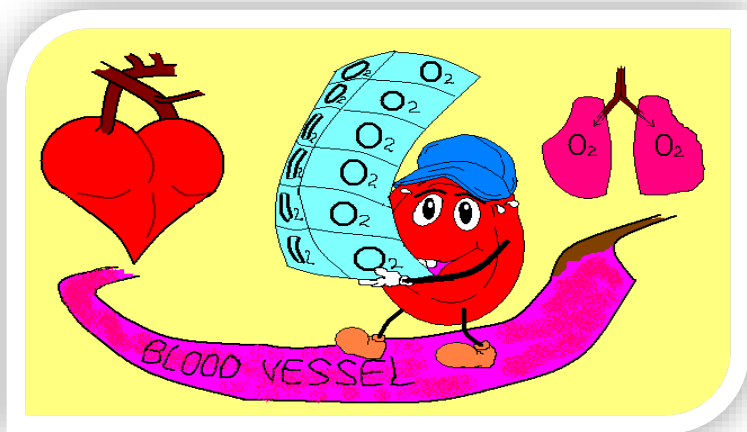


Hi everyone, we red cells work hard to carry oxygen that you breathe in through your lungs around your

body. Oxygen gives you lots of energy to help you run around and play



Red cells have a very special shape which allows us to squeeze into the tight spaces of your body where we deliver the oxygen keeping all your cells strong and healthy from head to toe.



Hi I am Pat the platelet! I work as part of a team. Here I am with Penny and Peter. Our job is to make plugs that help stop you from bleeding if you fall or cut yourself.

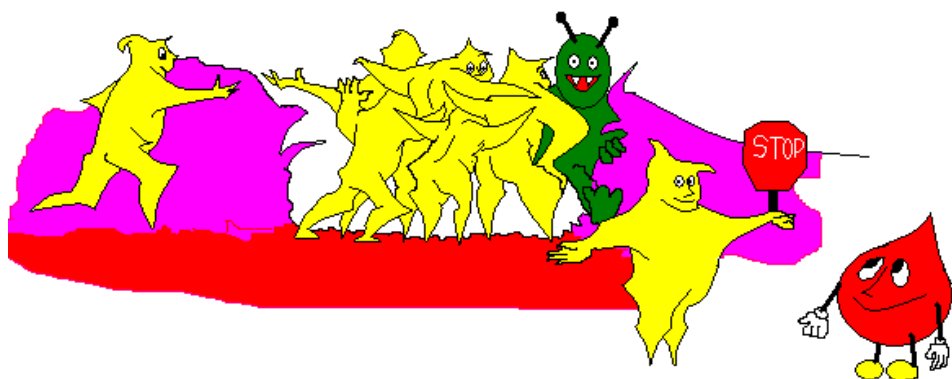


Yo, I am Wibbly the white cell. I fight off germs and bugs, buzz off you germs!! When these bugs get into your body they can make you sick. But don't worry, my hungry friends like Wilbur here love to catch them and gobble them up. Yum yum!!

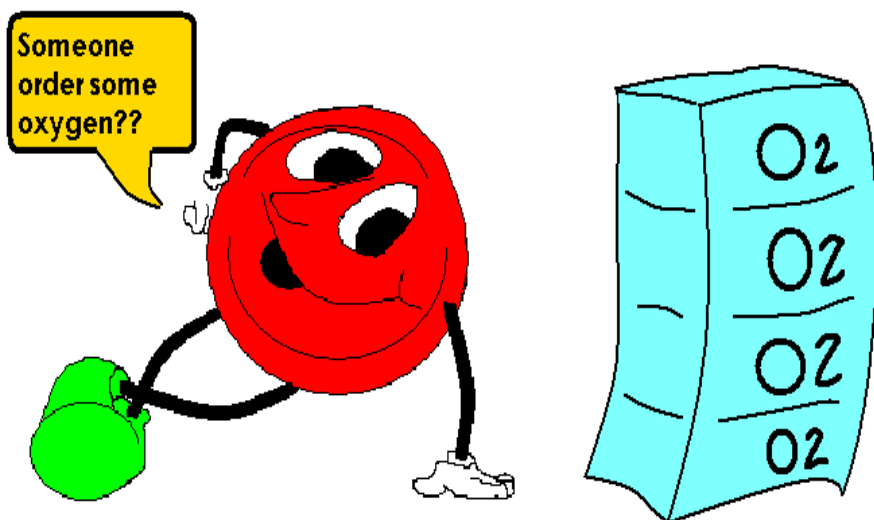
White cells in action



Platelets in action



Red cells in action

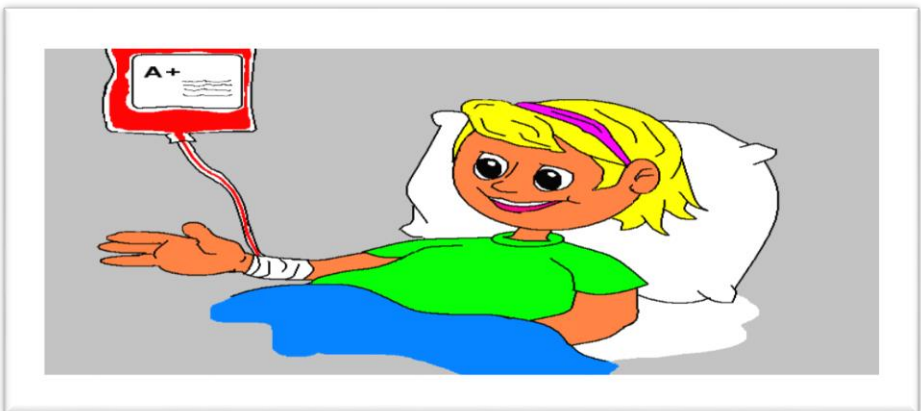


What is a Blood Transfusion?

Blood Transfusion is the way doctors and nurses put more blood cells into your bloodstream if you need them.

Platelets are a yellow colour and are given to you in a bag through your Freddie or straw in your hand or arm. Platelets are given over the same time it takes to watch 2-3 episodes of Paw Patrol.

Red Cells are red in colour and can help give you more energy if you are feeling tired. Red Cells feel cold because they are kept in a special blood fridge before they are given to you. The nurse or doctor will give the red cells through a pump, the bag will look like this.



How should I feel during and after my transfusion?

The nurse will check your wristband and ask you to say your name before he or she hangs the blood.

The nurse will check your temperature, pulse and your blood pressure, and ask you to tell your Mum, Dad or nurse if you feel unwell during your transfusion. You will be able to continue playing with your toys, games, reading.

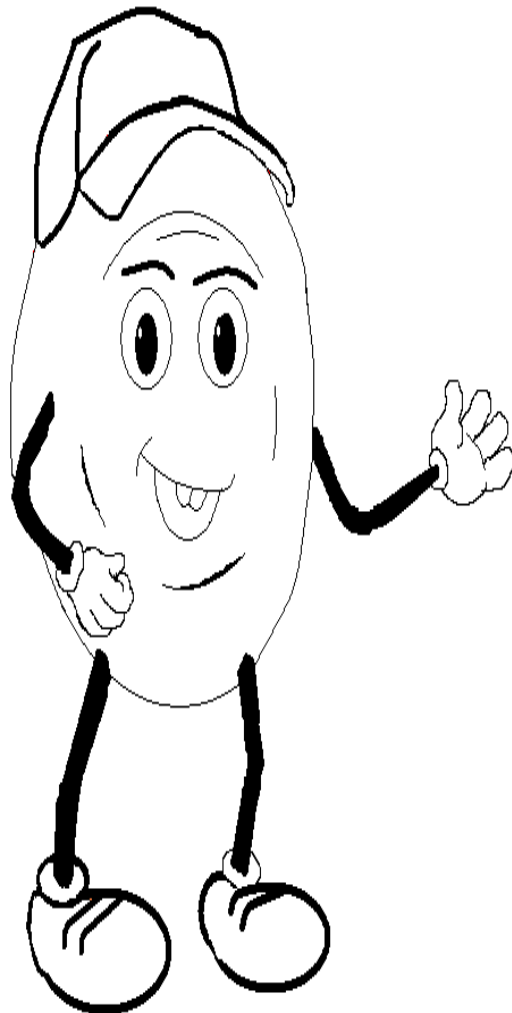
The nurse will check in on you during your transfusion to make sure you are comfortable.

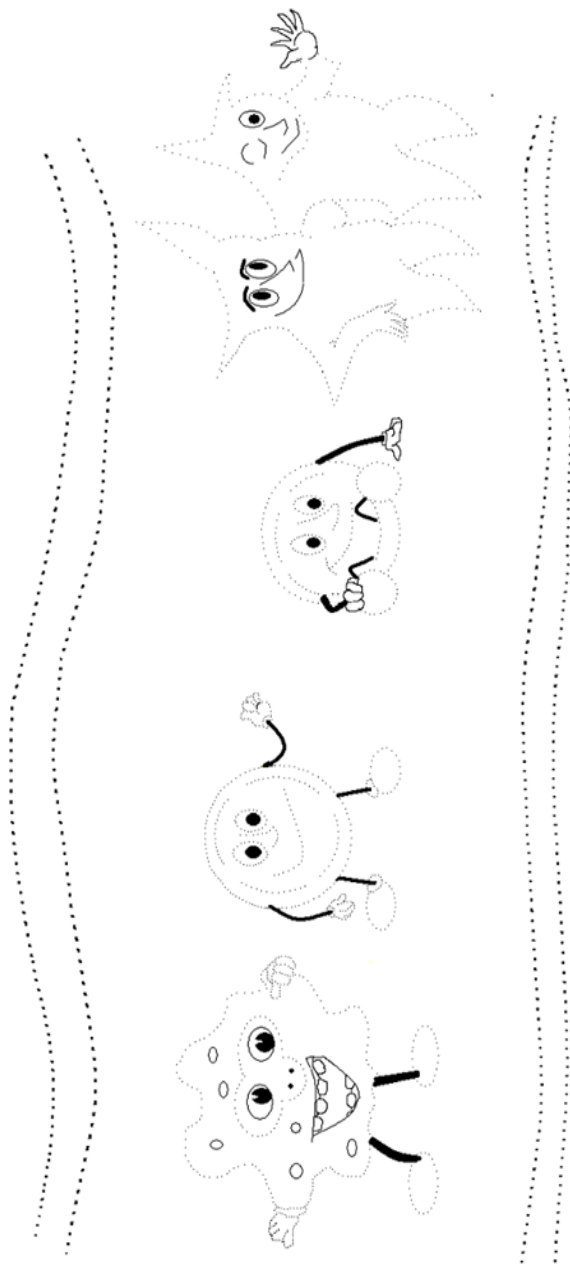
Where does blood come from?

There are lots of special people who give their blood to help you. They are called blood donors. We need a lot of blood donors to make sure there is enough blood for all the people who need a transfusion.

Would you like to do some colouring?

Turn over the page and join the dots too! Have fun.





Would you like to do some colouring?



Created by PHGD

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Haemovigilance Department, Tallaght Hospital.

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The information contained in this patient booklet is intended to support your child's care and treatment with healthcare professionals in OLCHC, CUH and Tallaght Hospital. Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this booklet is accurate, up to date and easy to understand.

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