



These “Bite-sized” Training Programmes guides are designed to help Lifelites Volunteers and champions to train and support hospice staff on the use of the magical Lifelites equipment in small bite-sized chunks.

Introduction to the POD’s Sensory Tent



1. Introduction – checking previous knowledge

Begin the session by checking if your trainees have used a POD’s Sensory Tent before and if they have used iPad or an iPhone before.

2. Explain the benefits

- PODS play tents provide a portable and Immersive sensory space
- Plug in, pop up and are ready to play in 40 seconds
- It comes with a complementing illustrated eBook, audio books and sound effects which can be played on an iPad
- Large enough to fit a wheelchair or you can attach a soft play mat for children to lay on
- Easy to clean

3. Basic operation

- Make sure you have a clear 2-metre x 2-metre space near a power supply available.
- Unpack the tent from the bag and roll it out so the tent is flat on the floor.
- Take the power lead and plug it onto the wall, you will then need to locate the small black located on the outside of the tent. The other end of the power cable will need to go in the hole near the fan. It will need to be screwed in, this is to ensure that it doesn’t pop out
- Flip the power switch located next to the fan from **OFF** to **ON**
- You then need to turn the black dial to the right (when off the dial should be pointing straight up in the 12 o’clock position), there are 4 levels of power, each turn of the dial will make it go to the next level. Turning it all the way to 4 will make it inflate more quickly (to fully inflate the tent you may need to pull it up by hand as it inflates so the air circulates more easily)
- Once your tent is fully inflated you may use the dial to turn the power level of the fan down to 2 or 3, this makes sure the tent stays full inflated and also reduces the noise level of the fan which some children may prefer
- Once the tent is inflated you may wish to attach the soft sensory play mat to the base, unfold the mat and place it inside the tent and connect it using the zips locate along the base. The zip puller should face the floor with the dark grey material facing upwards. This is to reduce children unzipping the floor pad.
- Once the tent is fully inflated and upright you can use the remote provided to change the colour/mood of the light’s
- Located on the iPad donated by Lifelites you will find digital files in the iBook and iMovie apps that can be played to compliment the tent. The digital files are themed to go along with the graphics on the outside of the POD



4. Unpack and set up the POD's Sensory Tent

- Have the staff unpack and set up the POD
- Change the setting of the fan once the POD is inflated to demonstrate the noise levels and what happens if you have the fan set too low or turn it off entirely.
- Connect the soft play mat and take it off

5. Using the Remote Control



The remote control allows you to turn the lights in the tent on and off as well as adjust the colour and brightness.

The mode button allows you to control the pattern of the lights and you may also adjust their speed as well

6. Changing the Graphics on your Tent

- The Graphics on both exterior and interior of the POD can be changed (each Hospice will have the Under the Sea graphic as standard, they may have others as well). There are zips that attach the graphics to the POD and these can be located at the edge of each graphic scene, to remove them undo the zip all the way around and take the scene off, you can then replace with another scene or even leave them off all together.
- There is also a door that can be zipped on to make it a fully immersive sensory experience

7. Packing the POD away

- The first step is to use the remote control to turn off the lights.
- If the floor mat is attached remove it
- Turn the dial back to the 12 o'clock position to turn the fan off
- Flick the power switch from **ON** to **OFF**
- Once switched off remove the power cord from the POD
- If left on its own the tent will slowly deflate, this will take around 10 minutes
- If you need the Tent to deflate faster you can let the air out manually, located near the fan/black dial/power are two golden zips. If you undo these it allows the air to escape but be aware that this will also expose the lights within the tent as well. Make sure to do the zips back up before putting it away
- Once all the air is out (and you have done the zips back up) fold the tent into thirds and then roll it up like a sleeping bag before sliding it back into the bag, the soft play floor mat should slide in the bag as well. The power cable can then sit on the top and the remote goes into a small zipped pocket in the top of the bag.