

Testimonials

L.G.: "I loved the Miniboos. Really helped when we were apart and I think it was a comfort to my baby too when I wasn't there. I loved the swapping over and getting to see him react to my smell. Having his scent with me was amazing for bonding and it did help with milk supply too."

L.K.: "when I was given one with our second premature baby, I felt myself welling up. After my emergency section, I slept with it tucked in my bra ... it definitely helped to bring me comfort when I was in pain and feeling lonely. Jemima was then given one on her 5th birthday so we then switched to swapping between the siblings. As a big sister, she was SO excited to sleep with one and then swap them over. She took real pride in this 'job' of comforting Posy when we weren't there. I really do believe it helped my little girl at home bond with her baby sister. It's so hard for them to understand why their baby doesn't come home like everyone else's siblings and I think the Miniboo really helped her feel connected to her sister before discharge. They are really special."

A.M.: "Whenever I felt those nasty, sad tears on a night when the lights went out I cuddled ours to my face so I could smell my little boy. I honestly believe it helped me and Harry have a connection as he knew who his mammy was by my smell, sometimes licking his miniboo when he was getting settled....One of Harry's is now pride of place on his nursery wall in a collage to remind him of his strength and fight."

J.T.: "The Miniboos were such an important part of bonding with Samson when I couldn't have him with me. He's 10 months old now and we still use them, they came to the Freeman when he had his heart surgery last month and it was comforting to know that he could still smell us while he was in PICU. He's such a daddy's boy that it was mostly his dad that slept with the miniboos then!"

K.C.: "I loved my Miniboo I used to sniff it constantly even though I was just on the ward down ...even being away from him for a second made me miss him. I loved swapping and having my baby's lovely fresh smell on it. I cuddled it in tight on a night time dreaming of when it would be him."

K.D.: "A simple way for me to feel connected to my baby when we couldn't be together. It was a comfort to know a part of us was with him too. I strongly believe that they helped us bond and establish my milk supply and eventually breast feeding. I still like to rub it on my cheek when I'm looking through our memory box. Such a beautifully simple idea making such a difference to life changing circumstances. You should be so proud."

L.G.: "I loved the Miniboos. Really helped when we were apart and I think it was a comfort to my baby too when I wasn't there. I loved the swapping over and getting to see him react to my smell. Having his scent with me was amazing for bonding and it did help with milk supply too."

D.T.: "Mine are still being used after my special twins boys' 144 days in SCBU. With Thomas critically ill in PICU we have continued to use the Miniboos this time, swapping them between him and his twin brother Matthew. They have been apart for nearly 3 weeks and we wanted to keep up the twin bond so that Thomas knows his big brother needs him to get well and come home.... we feel the twin scent on these Miniboos is helping to keep Thomas alive.... these Miniboos have maintained the twin bond we needed so that Matthew still knows his brother is alive and for Thomas to know his brother is rooting for him. For that reason, the Miniboo is everything to us."

N.A.: "I love our Miniboos they are such a great way to feel closer to Jade when we had to leave her at night and it was comforting knowing she could still have my smell with her as I always worried that she might forget who I was with us leaving her every night. A nurse also gave my 10yr old daughter one so she could do the same as me so she could feel close to her baby sister as she was finding it hard that she couldn't just cuddle her when she wanted. Jade actually still sleeps with her mini boo all the time. They really are a great thing."

A.W.: "I was desperate to be able to feed Stan myself and honestly feel that the Cuski's were instrumental in helping both of us take to breastfeeding so well. And not only that they gave me something to carry away from the unit. So important when you're leaving your baby behind every night. And now at almost 19 months there is nothing more lovely than hearing him ask for 'custy' as he falls asleep."



K.D.: "...such a beautifully simple idea making such a difference to life changing circumstances. You should be so proud."

C.B.: "I loved mine so did my baby boy even when I had to leave him at SCBU I carried it every where with me... comfort[ing] knowing my smell his smell was always there some think to keep forever so thank you x"

R.S.: "We didn't have them the first time around but when I was given one with our second premature baby, I felt myself welling up. After my emergency section, I slept with it tucked in my bra on the post natal ward and it definitely helped to bring me comfort when I was in pain and feeling lonely. Jemima was then given one by you on her 5th birthday so we then switched to swapping between the siblings. As a big sister, she was SO excited to sleep with one and then swap them over. She took real pride in this 'job' of comforting Posy when we weren't there. I really do believe it helped my little girl at home bond with her baby sister. It's so hard for them to understand why their baby doesn't come home like everyone else's siblings and I think the miniboo really helped her feel connected to her sister before discharge. They are really special. And here she is right now - at 9 weeks and 4 days (18 days corrected) -sleeping with it at home."

A.W.: "Our little boy Finn was born last Thursday at 32 weeks and Finn's mum Amy has found the mini-boo a really nice way to feel in contact with him throughout the day and it gave us both a boost that someone had thought of providing them when we saw him in SCBU the first time."

E.B.: "I think when your baby is in SCBU you feel a bit helpless and useless as a mam (well I did) but the mini boo was one way of actually feeling like you were doing something to help your baby and connect with them."

R.C.: "The mini boo definitely helped make me feel as if I was doing something to help Leo and it comforted me when I was apart from him knowing he could smell me. He has had it in his cot with him since we came home from SCBU and it's definitely a reminder of the wonderful team at SCBU and how thoughtful the care is that is given both to the babies and the families. "

K.P.C.: "...I loved my Miniboo. I used to sniff it constantly even though I was just on the ward down even being away from him for a second made me miss him. I loved swapping and having my baby's lovely fresh smell on it. I cuddled it in tight on a night time dreaming of when it would be him... it kept our connection and gave him a fresh smell of me daily."

C.G.: "I kept thinking I lost my Miniboo but i gave it to Kai's dad sometimes. Its not just for mums and babies. Dads can also enjoy them."

B.M.: "I had my little boy in Middlesbrough and 10 days later we got transferred back to RVI and when I got to RVI Reece had been there for 7 hours before I got there. The nurse looking after Reece gave me [Miniboo] and explained how they worked! They are an amazing idea! In Middlesbrough I stayed at the hospital with Reece so that first night Reece being at RVI and me being home without my baby the Miniboo gave me strength and comfort! When them tears come on a night you have your baby's smell to comfort you! such an simple amazing idea!"

P.T.M.: "I loved ours, Hana still has it now in her moses basket. It helped when I was trying to express, although unfortunately I stopped producing milk. I think having Hana's scent with me calmed me, made Hana a reality & not a nightmare I was waiting to wake up from xx."

M.B.: "Charlie still goes to bed with his Miniboo every night. He's nearly 14 months now and left SCBU after being there for 2.5 months. The difference it made to Anna, being able to bring that little piece of cloth home when leaving our baby every night was massive. To have that bridge between them, changing the Miniboo over each day and bringing his home was a massive mental crutch and helped ease the feelings of guilt and inadequacy."

S.I.: "We love our Miniboos so much. We switch them every day between Kaya, Emre and myself. They certainly help me feel close to Kaya and I hope they are helping my twin boys bond even though they can't be together yet. Kaya loves his mini boo on his head, it comforts him so much."

S.I.: "I don't know what I would have done without them. I couldn't hold my son until a month after he was born - the Miniboo was the only way for me to smell him. I spent many a fraught night clutching it in my hand as I tried to sleep. When my babies were in separate hospitals I was given a pair for Darcy too so they could both smell me and each other."

