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Last laugh for Helene's winning remedy

LITTLE Nikita Dixon (3) and Jamie Maher (4) clowned around yesterday with Helene Hugel after she was honoured last night at the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awards 2007.

Helene is a puppeteer and a clown doctor with a qualification in hospital play specialism.

"I would like to support a more imaginative and creative child-friendly approach to

children's health service provision in Ireland," she announced.

"Hospitals are functional places in need of creativity and art to holistically support the well-being of a child as a

whole," she added.

Helene has been working in the field of art and health for the past four years.

She is aiming through her work to positively transform the hospital environment and

counter the negative effects of hospitalisation.

A total of 36 people received awards at the Social Entrepreneurs event, for their exceptional work in tackling social problems throughout Ireland.