

Pathfinder series: Talking to Children

Websites:

Children and Cancer: Information and Resources

<http://www.cancer.org/Treatment/ChildrenandCancer/index?ssSourceSiteId=null>

This site. From the American Cancer Society has detailed information on talking to children. The section "Dealing with a cancer diagnosis in the family" offers advice on explaining the initial diagnosis, recurrence, treatment, terminal illness and much more.

OncoLink- Talking to your children about your cancer diagnosis

<http://www.oncolink.org/coping/article.cfm?c=5&s=52&ss=155&id=878&p=1>

OncoLink is an excellent source for online cancer information and support. This article answered many of the questions parents have when first telling their child about their cancer diagnosis and helps parents gather their facts first, before letting children in on what is going on.

Talking to Children

<http://cancerhelp.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/cancer-questions/support-for-children-whose-parents-have-cancer>

A brief guide to help assist adults in talking with children of all ages about cancer. Topics include common misunderstandings children might have school and friend issues and more.

Canadian Virtual Hospice: Talking with Children and Youth about Serious Illness <http://virtualhospice.ca/> (click "Topics" then "Emotional Health" for access to this article)

This is an excellent article with tips on starting the conversation about illness with your child, and ways to communicate depending on the ages of the children

Books available from Central library, St. Catharines:

Vanishing cookies : doing ok when a parent has cancer/by Michelle B. Goodman ; illustrated by Vladyana Krykorka, Pub. date: c1990, Call No.: J 616.994 Goo

Written for children between 7 and 12 years old, this book covers common concerns that children have about cancer. It is intended to stimulate conversation between parents and children.

Books/videos they may be able to help you find:

Cancer in the family: helping children cope with a parent's illness / American Cancer Society

Cancer is often called a "family disease" because it affects more than the person who is diagnosed with the disease. For families with young or adolescent children, this is especially true. This book outlines valuable steps necessary to help children understand what happens when a parent has been diagnosed with cancer.

When a parent is sick: helping parents explain serious illness to children / Joan Hamilton

What do you tell children when a parent has been diagnosed with a serious illness? This book provides parents and other caregivers with suggestions on how to approach children with the information that their parent is seriously ill. There are lots of examples of how and what to say to children and teens.

When a parent has cancer: a guide to caring for your children / Wendy Schessel Harpham

A mother, physician, and cancer survivor, Dr. Wendy Harpham offers clear, direct, and sympathetic advice for parents challenged with the task of raising normal, healthy children while they struggle with potential life-threatening disease.

Helping your children cope with your cancer: a guide for parents and families / Peter van Dernoort

Several families share their stories of how cancer affected their lives, and how they were able to explain things to their children, answer their questions, and deal with the difficulties they faced together. Tips and ideas are offered to help parents communicate with and support their kids.

Once upon a hopeful night / Risa Sacks Yaffe

Created as a tool for parents to use to break the news of a cancer diagnosis to their children, the author hopes it will help open the lines of communication so that the specific situations of each family can be addressed.