



The relation between your cancer and your child's school

Why is it important to tell your child's school about your cancer?

- Your child may be experiencing a variety of emotions related to your cancer diagnosis.
- Children do not always express their worries and it can impact their school work/behavior/friendships.
- For the school personnel to be able to support your child, they must be aware of the situation causing your child's change in behavior.

When should you tell your child's school?

- It is best to tell your child's school as soon as possible.
- If it is too difficult to speak about it, you may prefer to designate someone to speak on your behalf.

Who should you speak to about your diagnosis?

- Your child's teacher or whomever would be most helpful to your child.
- It is important to consider what your child wants and to inform them who you are telling and why.

What should you tell your child's school?

- You can share as little or as much as you choose to.
- It is important to be clear about what your child knows about your cancer.
- To help begin this conversation, you may want to fill out the form we have created to give to schools to inform them about your cancer.

How can I help my child talk with people at school?

- Ask your child if they would like to talk to someone about your cancer and who that may be.

How can the school help me and my child?

- Teachers often do not know how they could help you unless you tell them.
- Explicitly ask for the different resources available at your child's school.
 - Suggestions:
 - Weekly reports on your child's wellbeing;
 - Give your child's school the name and contact information of adults who can pick up your child from school if you cannot;
 - Referral to support services;
 - Extra time for exams;
 - Extra help with homework.

