Reading List

Medical Texts and Reference Books

FreeBooks4Doctors
Free, online, full-text medical texts. The Cancer Medicine 5th edition text, 2000, has comprehensive sections on childhood cancer and childhood cancer survivorship issues.


Psychosocial Aspects of Pediatric Oncology, by Shulamith Kreitler and Myriam Weyl Ben Arush (Editors)

Caring for the Child with Cancer
Armfuls of Time, by Barbara Sourkes.
The psychological experience of the child with a life threatening illness.

Explains how self-help groups are formed, how they function and recruit, and why they are effective.

Cancer Pain Relief and Palliative Care in Children
World Health Organization, 1999, 76 pages (available in English and French; Spanish in preparation).


Reports the findings of a study (funded by the Dutch Cancer Society and the Foundation for Pediatric Cancer Research) on the communication between parents and their child with cancer.

Great information on cancer basics: staging, medications, procedures, etc.

100 Questions & Answers About Your Child’s Cancer, by William Carroll, MD.
This book is an invaluable resource for anyone coping with the physical and emotional turmoil of cancer. 160 pages, 2004.

Healing Images for Children: Teaching Relaxation and Guided Imagery to Children Facing Cancer and Other Serious Illnesses, by Nancy C. Klein.
Muscle relaxation, calm breathing, visual imagery, stories, music, humor, and positive affirmations are techniques that enhance a child’s healing process. Companion items include: Healing Images for Children Activity Book: For Days When Quiet Activities Are Best Healing Images for Children: Relax and Imagine (Audio CD).


Real life stories and experiences of over 20 parents who have been diagnosed with cancer. Provides valuable advice on how to discuss the impact of cancer on the whole family.


Relaxation method of pain relief.


Your Child has Cancer: A Guide to Coping, by Joan Taksa Rolsky, MSW.


Informative Books for Kids with Cancer and their Siblings
Order a FREE copy of the following from info@candlelighters.org.


Chemo, Craziness & Comfort, My Book about Childhood Cancer, by Nancy Keene and Trevor Romain. A 200 page resource that provides practical advice for children diagnosed with cancer between 6 and 12 years of age. Warm and funny illustrations and easy-to-read text help the child (and parents) make sense of cancer and its treatment.

The Amazing Hannah, Look at Everything I Can Do! By Amy and Dave Klett Available in English or Spanish, this 28 page picture book is written for the preschool (1 to 5 years) child who has been diagnosed with cancer. Through real-life photos, children will be able to identify with Hannah’s hospital stay, special friends, tests, treatment and germ care.
Oliver’s Story: For ‘Sibs’ of Kids with Cancer, is a 40 page illustrated book targeted for the 3 to 8 year old sibling of children diagnosed with cancer. Illustrated by Mike Dodd and written through the eyes of his six-year-old son Oliver, this resource focuses on the many questions that siblings have when their brother or sister is diagnosed with cancer, and offers constructive ways on how they can provide support. Also in Spanish.

Educational Issues


Negotiating the Special Education Maze: A Guide for Parents and Teachers


Suggestions for Teachers and School Counselors. Write to:
The Compassionate Friends. P.O. Box 3696, Oak Brook, IL 60522.

Grief Comes to Class: A Teacher’s Guide
Comprehensive guide to grief in the classroom.

Finances During Medical Treatment

A book to help families of people who need transplants.

Available at www.randomhouse.com/waterbook.
Contains numerous ideas for methods to raise funds. Christian perspective.

Free guide for those who wish to provide financial/emotional support for families of ill children.

Books for Children Ages 4 to 8

Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand, by Alex, Jay and Liz Scott, 2004.
The true story of NB fighter Alexandra Scott and her plan to help all kids with cancer!

Chemo Girl: Saving the World One Treatment at a Time, by Christina Richmond, 1997.
About a super heroine named Chemo Girl.

H is for Hair Fairy: An Alphabet of Encouragement for Kids (and Kids at Heart!) with Cancer, by Kim Martin and Wend Boomhower, 2005.

An imagination journey of what all kids with cancer can do – this one with Cancer Kid Boy.
Beautiful illustrations and verse help the child use imagery to refocus the mind away from pain. A Note to Parents discusses pain management and guides parents in teaching imagery and deep breathing.


An inspiring story that also provides coping techniques such as visualization and relaxation exercises.


Ten year old Shannon tells about her fight with cancer in a hope-filled ABC format. Also contains a discussion on childhood cancer, a glossary, and reading list.


*Sammie’s New Mask: A Coloring Book for Friends of Children with Cancer*

The National Children’s Cancer Society (www.nationalchildrenscancersociety.com) will send multiple copies of this booklet to schools, etc. if requested on behalf of a child with cancer.


**Books for Children Ages 9 to 12**

*Cancer (What’s It Like?),* by Angela Royston, Heinemann Library, 2005.

*Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie*, by Jordan Sonnenblick.

A 13-year old boy’s pesky 5-year old brother is diagnosed with leukemia.


**Books for Young Adults**


**Inspirational Books for Adults**


It’s Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life, by Lance Armstrong.
The story of a world-class athlete nearly struck down by cancer who recovers and wins the Tour de France.

I want to grow hair, I want to grow up, I want to go to Boise, by Erma Bombeck, 1989.

LiveSTRONG. Lance Armstrong Foundation
Inspirational stories from cancer survivors.

Love, Medicine, & Miracles, by Bernie Siegel, MD.

Peace, Love, & Healing, by Bernie Siegel, MD.


When Bad Things Happen to Good People, by Harold S. Kushner
A Jewish rabbi facing his own child’s fatal illness asks, “Why me?”

Books for Siblings
Straight from the Siblings: Another Look at the Rainbow, by Gloria Murray (Photographer), Gerald G. Jamplosky (Editor), Celestial Arts, California, 1982
Written by sixteen children who have brothers and sisters with a life-threatening illness.

What About Me? When Brothers and Sisters Get Sick, by Allan Peterkin, Frances Middendorf

When Molly Was in the Hospital: A Book for Brother and Sisters of Hospitalized Children, by Debbie Duncan

Biographical/Families’ Stories

This book follows three children through treatment for childhood cancer.

I Never Signed Up for This!: An Upfront Guide to Dealing with Cancer at a Young Age, by Katie Strumpf, 2006.
Written by a 25 year old who had cancer as a young girl.


This true story about a young boy battling cancer will inspire you to seek life, love, laughter and adventure. Foreword by Tom Hanks.

End of Life and Grief - Children’s Books


Painting the Sunsets with the Angels, by Vann Wesson and Moira Michaels, 1996.
A sister is given hope after the death of her brother.

Thumpy’s Story: A Story of Love and Grief Shared, by Nancy Dodge.

Simple illustrations, like a child’s colorful drawings, fill the pages of this book. The book asks questions as a child might—the answers are sensible, including different cultures.

Explains and describes feelings after the death of a sibling, such as the empty place in the house, at the table, in a brother’s heart.

This is a book for children who may not survive their illness. This comforting story about a tender-spirited tree and her forest friends will also help children with the death of friends or family members. A healing metaphor, it addresses our feelings of sadness, love, disbelief, and anger, and provides children with a transformational way of viewing dying.


The Everlasting Snowman, by Hunter Darden & Tamara Adams, 1997.

The Next Place by Warren Hanson, 1997.
An inspirational journey of light and hope to a place where earthly hurts are left behind.

Help children understand and cope with grief.

When Good-bye is For Ever, by Lois Rock, 1969.
All through our lives we learn to say many good-byes. Some are easy; some are hard. This book will help you find hope when you have to say the hardest good-bye of all.

End of Life and Grief – Books for Teens
A journal for recording written and photographic memories during the first year of mourning.


The perspectives and experiences of seventeen teenagers coping with grief.

End of Life and Grief – Books for Adults

The Next Place by Warren Hanson.
An inspirational journey of light and hope to a place where earthly hurts are left behind.

Bereavement: A Magazine of Hope and Healing.
For a free copy or to subscribe, call: Bereavement Publishing, Inc., (888) 604-4673 (HOPE).


A journal for recording written and photographic memories during the first year of mourning.


Living When a Loved One Has Died, by Earl A. Grollman, 1997.


There Is a Rainbow Behind Every Dark Cloud, by Gerald G. Jampolsky.
Eleven children share their experiences with terminal illness, 1979.


Please contact info@cncfhope.org with any comments