

*Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.*

- Benjamin Franklin

Please direct your comments and questions to the Lunch & Learn Program Coordinator:
Connie Leonick, CPNP
connie.leonick@wmchealth.org

Supported by grants from Genentech, Pfizer, and The Marisa Fund and a gift from Leonard and Janet Mitchell.

<http://www.nypedscancerbloodcenter.org/>



Maria Fareri Children's Hospital
100 Woods Road
Valhalla, NY 10595
914.493.7000



Lunch & Learn

An educational program for caregivers and family members of children diagnosed with cancer.

Join us in the Family Resource Center to learn more, meet other families, and enjoy a complimentary lunch.



The Situation

When a child is diagnosed with cancer, the whole family is affected. There is so much new information to learn....

- **Families are meeting so many new people from so many different hospital departments**
- **New words, medical terms, names of medications, tests and procedures are so confusing**
- **It is easy to forget “who said what” and what things mean**
- **All of these things add to the stress of caring for a child with an unexpected illness**

What is Lunch & Learn

“Lunch & Learn” is a series of sessions that provide a special time for parents, grandparents, other relatives and caregivers to get together to learn more about childhood cancer, its treatment, and how to use this information to promote normalcy within the family when a child has been diagnosed with cancer.

Can My Child Attend?

Lunch & Learn sessions are designed to offer caregivers a time to learn about their child’s diagnosis. Many parents and family members use this time to ask questions about cancer and discuss some of the ways that their families have been affected. Your child and other family members are welcome to attend the sessions. Please discuss this with your nurse or social worker if you have any concerns.

While you are off the unit, your nurse will be able to contact you in the event that you are needed at your child’s bedside. Pagers will be available for parents who cannot be contacted via a personal mobile device.

We aim to make you, your family, and your child as knowledgeable and comfortable as possible. Please do not hesitate to ask more questions about the program. You and your family are important members of the treatment team, and we encourage you to learn and understand as much as you can to make your child’s journey through treatment and recovery as safe and smooth as possible.

About the Sessions

By attending the Lunch & Learn Program, you will have the opportunity to meet many of the specialists who are involved in the care of your child. A different topic will be presented at each program session. Attend any or all of the sessions - the more sessions you attend, the more you will discover about living with childhood cancer. You will have the opportunity to learn more about cancer, tests and procedures, treatment and side effects, infection control, daily living, school issues, child life resources, nutrition, social work resources, mental health and coping, treatment complications, handling emergencies, and the late effects of treatment experienced by survivors of childhood cancer. Your suggestions for future topics are always welcome.

What?: Each session will cover a different topic. Ask one of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Clinical Nurse Specialists for the topic of the week, or check the flyers posted on the Arts, Literature, and Theater neighborhoods for details. Attend as many sessions as you like – there is always new information to be learned!

Where?: Lunch & Learn sessions will be offered approximately every two weeks at the Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital.

You can attend the program by joining us in the Parent Resource Center, located on the First Floor of the Children’s Hospital.

When?: The program will run for one hour between 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. A complementary light lunch will be offered during the session.