The "C" Word

When Kids Get CANCER
What is **CANCER**?

To answer this question we need to learn a little about what goes on inside our bodies...
Cells are the building blocks of our bodies

We are made up of trillions of cells

Cells have different jobs and behave in different ways in our bodies
Cells are always dividing and making new healthy cells.
Cancer happens when a cell starts making sick cells faster than healthy ones.

There are many different types of cancers depending on where the sick cells are in our bodies.
When the cells in our blood divide and make **sick cancer cells**, this is called **leukemia**.

This is the type of cancer that kids get most often.
Why do KIDS get CANCER?
We DON'T KNOW
We **DO KNOW** that it does not happen very often.
You can’t “CATCH” cancer, it is NOT like a COLD
You **DON'T** get **CANCER** from a **PERSON**, a **PLACE** or by **MISBEHAVING**.
The **GOOD NEWS** is that most kids who get cancer **WILL GET BETTER**.
How DO Kids Get BETTER?
Doctors use **2** special kinds of **treatments** to help kids get better.

**Chemotherapy**
Strong medicines that kill sick cancer cells and stop them from coming back.

**Radiation**
Strong beams of energy that are aimed at the cancer cells to destroy them.
Sometimes the **CANCER MEDICINES** do extra things like...

- Make hair fall out
- Make you feel extra tired
- Make your face puffy or rounder
The good news is that these extra things will go away in time so it is important to be patient.
How Can Kids HELP?
STAY IN TOUCH with your FRIEND who is AWAY from school

Send cards
Make a book of jokes
Make a video letter
Create a class journal
ASK if you can VISIT your FRIEND at home or in the HOSPITAL
Be **KIND** and **GENTLE** with your friend.

Remember they are the same person, but may not be able to do all the things in the same way they did before they were sick.
Learn more about kids and BLOOD CANCERS

bloodcancers.ca
Adapted from Children’s Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre Pediatric Cancer School Support Program