

“He doesn’t talk about how things emotionally affect him very much. And sometimes I just had to guess. And even when you asked him, he could give concrete answers, but not processing how he was feeling, emotionally, about it.”

Parent of an 11-year old

“Sometimes I don’t think that I thoroughly got through to him. And so just didn’t know exactly how to help him, emotionally.”

Parent of a 10-year old

“..I couldn’t seem to reason with her...It was just fear, I think, that she was feeling. She’s that type of child. ..It’s fear...and I don’t think at the time that I really recognized it as much...Yeah, I wish I would have done it differently with her.

Parent of an 8-year old

“She didn’t really talk about it. Maybe that’s because she didn’t know how to put it into words”

Parent of a 9-year old

Enhancing Connections Program: A Cancer Education Program for Parents





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You have cancer. In addition to questions you have about your health, you may also be wondering about the best way to handle the cancer with your children. The *Enhancing Connections Program* is a program designed to assist you in helping your 5 to 17-year old with your cancer.

The program includes ways you can:

- Enhance communication with your child in talking about your cancer
- Draw out your child's feelings and concerns about your cancer
- Support your child and decrease stress related to your cancer

This program was created in response to parents telling us about the challenges they experienced in responding to their child during treatment for cancer.

The program is being evaluated as part of a research study, and participating in the program requires participating in the research. This program is being offered at Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia.

The *Enhancing Connections Program* is offered by trained social workers who are masters prepared mental health professionals with experience working with families at Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia. The materials used in the program were carefully created by child specialists and nurse clinicians.

The *Enhancing Connections Program* is available at no charge and offers:

- Five 1 to 1 ½ -hour group sessions every two weeks for 8 weeks
- A Parent's Workbook to lead you through carefully sculpted learning activities

The *Enhancing Connections Program* is available to parents who have a 5 to 17 year old and who are:

- Diagnosed with early stage cancer (Stage 0-III).
- Within 12 months of diagnosis

To talk to someone further about enrolling in this program:

Please call: Liz Martin
215-879-7733 ext. 224 or
Liz@cancersupportphiladelphia.org



The Suzanne Morgan Center at
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