

Back to School Program



The Back to School program, sponsored by Dana-Farber/Children's Hospital Cancer Center, is designed to ease your child's transition back to school. Cancer treatment and stem cell transplant care may involve frequent clinic visits, radiation, surgery or hospitalization, causing children to miss some school. Returning to school can be a positive experience. It can also be a challenging and emotional experience. The program provides:

- **Student and family support** - To prepare your child for the return to school, we provide individual counseling and family guidance to help support the transition back to the classroom.
- **Classmate understanding** - At the school, we provide classmates with age appropriate information about your child's treatment and encourage social support.
- **Teachers and school personnel** – We work with teachers and other school personnel to increase their understanding of health, educational and psychological issues faced by your child.

The Back to School Program may include a phone consultation with the school, an information packet which can be sent to the child's teacher or a school visit from your child's care team. The team tailors the presentation to the child's classmates and school staff.

During the presentation, we discuss disease, treatment, side effects and medical procedures and the emotional aspects of your child's experience. We try to remove any confusion about cancer and stem cell transplant. Our presentations vary, depending on the age of the children. Options include:

- PowerPoint presentations
- Puppet shows
- Teaching dolls
- Written materials
- Medical play

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After the presentation there is a question-and-answer period. Our goal is to encourage social support for the child who is returning to the school community. These visits may also be provided if the student is currently not in school or expected to have an extended absence from school.

Back to School Program Contacts

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Contact Us

For patient care assistance, please call the following phone numbers:

- Jimmy Fund Clinic (617) 632-3270
Business Hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Page Operator (617) 632-3352
Off hours: weekdays after 5 p.m., holidays, and weekends
Page pediatric hematology/oncology fellow on call
- Life Threatening Emergencies dial 911