

## Sibling Program

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When your child is receiving treatment, this impacts the entire family, through multiple doctor visits, frequent hospitalizations, and significant changes in normal routine. Our team will work with you to determine which services best meet your family's needs, and share suggestions and strategies for coping. Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Sibling Program provides support to siblings and their families. The following Sibling Voices video, also available on YouTube, was created by and for siblings who have a brother or sister with cancer. It also can help parents/guardians, educators, and others better understand the sibling experience.

### Sibling Voices Video:

<http://www.danafarberbostonchildrens.org/for-families/patient-and-family-support-services/sibling-program.aspx>

## Sibling Program Events and Activities

The Sibling Program offers comprehensive, personalized psychosocial support to the school-aged and teenaged siblings of our pediatric patients. We also offer these special opportunities:

- **April Sibling Week:** Each year in April, siblings are invited to this special week, which includes craft activities, interactive guest artists, and lunch for the entire family and staff, all hosted by the Sibling Program. Siblings ages 5 and older are also invited to take part in a group just for brothers and sisters lead by psychosocial clinicians.
- **"Just for Sibs" Group:** All outpatient and inpatient brothers and sisters ages 5 to 12 years are invited to attend this weekly group.
- **Support for Siblings in the Schools Program:** The program provides information to teachers and guidance counselors about how to support the sibling.
- **Teen Sibling Program:** Several times a year special group activities for teen siblings are provided.
- **Parent Support:** Psychosocial staff and the Sibling Specialist provide consultation to parents around sibling issues.
- **Sibling Bags:** Bags containing age-appropriate books and materials are provided to siblings ages 5 and up.
- **Sibling "BEADS" Program:** Like the BEADS Program (Beading Each a Different Story), BEADS for Sibs is designed to represent the unique experience of having a brother or sister on treatment.

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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