

A child or adolescent who is diagnosed with cancer often misses a lot of school. When he or she can return to the classroom, the transition may be difficult.



Children's Hospital offers the Back-to-School Program to help ease the transition for the child or adolescent.



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DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY



## Back-to-School Program

An educational presentation for classmates of children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer



Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC's Back-to-School Program is individually tailored for each child or adolescent diagnosed with cancer in kindergarten through grade 12.

A child life specialist from Children's Hospital visits the child's or teen's classroom when he or she returns to school to educate classmates about cancer. Through the use of a video or PowerPoint presentation, the program focuses on the student's cancer-related activities during his or her absence and how the class can help during the transition.

The 45-minute program is designed to:

- Relieve anxieties
- Answer questions
- Encourage support upon the student's return

The Back-to-School Program is coordinated by the Child Life Department at Children's Hospital. Child Life plays a key role in helping to make the hospital stay more comfortable for the children and their families. Child life specialists provide emotional and physical support such as preparing the children and their families for health care experiences, providing normal and therapeutic play activities and teaching coping techniques to help reduce stress.



*A child life specialist uses a visual aid to explain the relationship between bone marrow and leukemia.*



To schedule a Back-to-School Program at your school, contact:

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