

EXTRACT FROM

The Children's Collective Document

AS READ ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON DISCUSSION

We have not always found it easy having cancer. This has caused lots of storms for us. Many of the storms produce stormy feelings.

Feelings

As children with cancer, some of us were too embarrassed to visit with our friends or tell them we had cancer. We feared ridicule because we would lose our hair and our bodies would change because steroids often make us gain weight and our faces get round. We thought we might be less likeable and we saw that the chemotherapy and other things often made us feel angry, get angry, feel sad, and act sad, and there were lots of changes in our emotions. Sometimes we were very afraid and saddened by what we were going through so that we didn't want to face our friends who were sometimes frightened and sad too. Sometimes we noticed that our family members were frightened and sad too and this made us more fearful. Sometimes we were angry and would find it unfair.

These things were often hard to bear but we often talk to family members. We call this coping trick; family.

Family

Many of us found it helpful to talk to family members about the worries, fears, angers, embarrassment and sadness.

“I did not want those in my school to know that I had cancer and then my older brother came home from school one day and I overheard him tell my parents that they had been lying to him. One of his classmates had come to him and said, ‘I heard your sister has only a month to live.’ I was really frightened then, because I thought my parents were lying to me too. But my mom noticed I was listening and she got us all together to talk about my cancer. She told me my cancer was the best of a worst thing that can happen to someone. That she had been told by the doctors that the chemotherapy would kill the cancer cells and our life together as a family would go on. I felt better. But I still felt the anger because people at school knew what was happening to me.”

From a presentation given by Linda Moxley
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