

JamesCare for Life Family & Parenting Book Recommendations

Tips for preparing to read with your child:

- Call JamesCare for *Life* at 614-293-6428 to discuss other books specific to your child's questions or needs.
- You may visit your local library for librarian recommendations on specific cancer-related topics that may address your child's questions and concerns.
- [Youtube](#) offers some read-along videos of books. Please consider watching a read-along video or borrowing a book from the public library before committing to a purchase.
- Read the entire book before reading it *with* your child to ensure it meets your child's needs and developmental level.
- While books can be helpful to help children learn and ask questions, it is not recommended to review cancer-related books regularly. Follow your child's lead to determine how often and when they want to re-read a book related to cancer.
- Find more family and parenting resources at cancer.osu.edu/parenting

Books About Cancer, Treatment, What to Expect, and Common Feelings:

How Do You Care for a Very Sick Bear? By Vanessa Bayer

- Ages 2+
- Topics: caring for someone who is sick (general illness)

In Mommy's Garden by Neyal Ammary-Risch

- Ages 2+
- Topics: how cancer grows, cancer treatment, common questions of young children

Let My Colors Out by Courtney Filigenzi

- Ages 2+
- Topic: feelings

Someone I Love Is Sick: Helping Very Young Children Cope with Cancer in the Family by Kathleen McCue

- Ages 2+
- Topics: customizable book about diagnosis, treatment, hospitalization, fear of recurrence, and end of life

[Big Tree is Sick](#) by Nathalie Slosse (video link)

- Ages 3+
- Topics: coping with feelings and with lack of control

Mom Has Cancer by Jennifer Moore-Mallinos (Available in English and Spanish)

- Ages 3+
- Topics: feelings and coping

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Nowhere Hair by Sue Glader

- Ages 3+
- Topic: Hair Loss

Ani's Light by Tanu Shree Singh (video link)

- Ages 4+
- Topics: separation, hair loss

The Dot Method: Interactive Tool to Teach Kids About Cancer by Kelsey Mora

- Ages 4+
- Topics: cancer terms, cells, treatment, side effects, feelings, coping

What Happens When Someone I Love Doesn't Feel Good by Sara Olsher w/Jenni Rogers, MS, CCLS, CTRS

- Ages 4+
- Topics: Illness, side effects, common feelings, effects of an adult's cancer diagnosis/treatment on a child's day-to-day life, coping with routine changes
- Recommended as an introduction to adult's cancer diagnosis; helpful for first conversations

What Happens When Someone I Love Has Cancer by Sara Olsher

- Ages 4+
- Topics: the science of cancer, effects of an adult's cancer diagnosis/treatment on a child's day-to-day life, coping with routine changes

I Have a Question About Cancer: Clear Answers for All Kids, Including Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Other Special Needs by Arlen Grad Gaines

- Ages 5+
- Topics: cancer education using question and answer format, symbol-based language, and a short picture story

Making Happy by Sheetal Sheth (discussion guide link)

- Ages 6+
- Topics: Coping with change, finding joy, chemotherapy

My Dad and the Dragon by Montserrat Coughlin Kim (video link)

- Ages 6+
- Available in English and Spanish
- Topic: a family's day-to-day life during a dad's cancer experience

Love Sick by Harald Hermann

- Ages 12+
- Topics: a collection of verses and images dedicated to those affected by cancer

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Making It Mine: Stories Of Teens Who Found Themselves In Their Parents' Cancer by Brie Bernhardt

- Ages 12+
- Topics: stories, interviews, quotes, and poems for reflection from other teens

My Parent Has Cancer and it Really Sucks by Marc Silver

- Ages 12+
- Topics: coping with diagnosis, stress, friends' reactions, and teacher involvement; what to expect from a therapy session or support group

[When Your Parent Has Cancer: A Guide for Teens](#) (booklet) – National Cancer Institute (click for webpage or to download PDF version)

- Ages 12+
- Topics: dealing with stress and changes, finding support, cancer treatment and side effects, life after treatment, resources and organizations

Books About Coping with Changes During a Family's Cancer Experience:

[That's Me Loving You](#) by Amy Krouse Rosenthal (video link)

- Ages 0-3
- Topics: separation anxiety

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

- Ages 2+
- Topics: separation anxiety (not cancer specific); can also relate to grief and loss

The Invisible String by Patrice Karst

- Ages 3+
- Topics: separation anxiety (not cancer specific); can also relate to grief and loss

Rabbityness by Jo Empson

- Ages 6+
- Topics: general loss, creativity, positivity, individuality

Books About Grieving Before a Loss Happens:

My Love Will Never Leave You by Stephen Hogtun

- Ages 3+

What Happens When Someone I Love Won't Get Better by Sara Olsher

- Ages 3+

A Last Goodbye by Elin Kelsey (Available in [Braille](#) and [Chinese](#))

- Ages 4+

Gentle Willow by Joyce C. Mills

- Ages 4+

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Ida, Always by Caron Levis (Available in [Braille](#) and [Chinese](#))

- Ages 4+

Still Mine by Jayne Pillemer

- Ages 4+

You'll Find Me by Amanda Rawson Hill

- Ages 4+

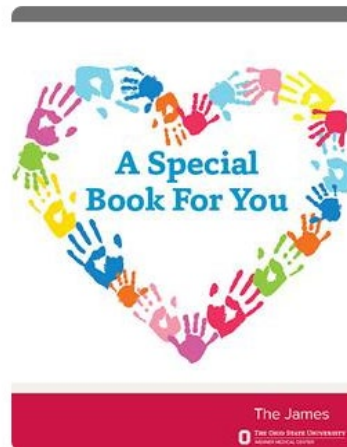
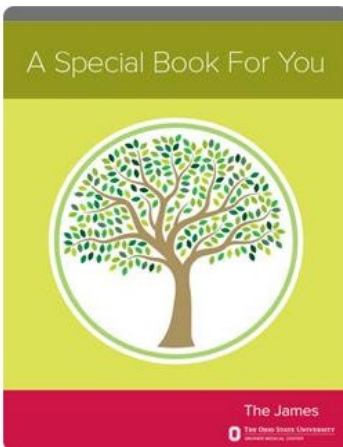
Annabelle & Aiden: What Happens When We Die by J.R. Becker

- Ages 9+
- Non-religious

Adult Resources:

How to Help Children Through a Parent's Serious Illness by Kathleen McCue

A Special Book for You: A memory book for an adult patient to fill out and give to a child/teen in their life. To request a mailed copy, [click here](#).



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