



## Guideposts for Parent-Child Cancer Conversation

For those afflicted with cancer, dealing with the illness is difficult enough. But when a patient's family includes young children, the psychosocial components of the cancer experience are magnified immeasurably. Communicating with children about issues such as the experience of illness, disability, and even death of a parent or grandparent is never easy, but a new resource may provide assistance with these difficult conversations.

*Someone I Love is Sick* is a just-published reference intended for children ages 2-6 that discusses the spectrum of the cancer experience. The book is customizable, printed on loose-leaf pages that can be inserted or removed for particular situa-

tions, ranging from diagnosis, treatment, and hospitalization, to recurrence and end of life. The text offers both educational information and addresses emotional issues children face as they deal with a parent's or grandparent's cancer.

The publisher emphasizes that the book is intended for ongoing, rather than one-time, use, and that it should be used as a general guide to telling an individual's story.

The book was written by Kathleen McCue, MA, LSW, CCLS, whose career has focused on the mental health of children facing medical situations. Ms McCue is the director of children's programming at The Gathering Place, a cancer support

center in Ohio. *Someone I Love is Sick* can be purchased directly from the publisher at [http://www.someoneiloveissick.com/buynow/buy\\_now.aspx](http://www.someoneiloveissick.com/buynow/buy_now.aspx). ONN

### MORE RESOURCES

For a listing of other books that can help adults explain to their children the experience of cancer in the family, please visit our website ([www.oncologynursingnews.com](http://www.oncologynursingnews.com)).