



ADVOCACY • AWARENESS • SUPPORT



**Giving families
the strength
they need,
every step of
the way.**

www.childhoodcancer.ie

What we do...



**Every year, an average of
379 children and young
people are diagnosed with
cancer in Ireland.**



**Childhood Cancer Ireland is a national charity
solely dedicated to supporting children and
young people with cancer, survivors and their
families, throughout their cancer experience.**

Our emotional and practical supports and financial advice help all family members from the moment of diagnosis, through treatment and recovery and into survivorship or bereavement.

Every year, an average of 379 children and young people are diagnosed with cancer in Ireland. As a parent and survivor-led charity, we understand how this diagnosis pulls the rug from under the entire family without warning.

When that happens, Childhood Cancer Ireland is there, giving families the strength they need every step of the way.

Through supports like play therapy, peer support, opportunities for connection and psychological support, we focus on the emotional wellbeing of children and young people with cancer, their parents and siblings.

We will ensure that you have access to the right support, at the right time and at the right level of expertise.



Beads of Courage™

We are honoured to empower children to tell their story through the Beads of Courage programme. Each colourful bead marks a milestone along the way as children progress through their treatment, showing them how much they have overcome so far.

We also offer the Sibling Beads of Courage Programme, which can help siblings to feel included and have their own moments of bravery acknowledged.

Children can join this programme at any time so don't worry if your child didn't start in the early stages of treatment.



Parent Peer Support

This programme is about connection at a time when parents need it most.

Our Parent Peer Supporters provide a compassionate and friendly source of support, as well as sharing practical knowledge on the supports and services that might be useful, helping you navigate through your child's cancer and beyond. This programme is offered over the phone.



Parent Connect & Learn Events

Childhood Cancer Ireland brings parents together to connect and learn, alongside our experts as we explore shared experiences and ways to strengthen families after childhood or adolescent cancer.

A parent is the foundation of the family so we know that looking after them is the first step in looking after the whole family. These events are most suitable for parents whose child is coming to the end of treatment, in maintenance, or who has already finished treatment, even if that was a number of years ago.

In this free 1-day workshop, you will learn practical strategies from our experts to support you as you navigate this next phase in your family's experience of childhood cancer.





Access to Play Therapy/Psychotherapy

The emotional effects of childhood / adolescent cancer can last long after treatment has ended. We provide free access to play therapy for a child or psychotherapy (talk therapy) for a teen who has or had cancer, or their sibling.

Through our network of qualified and experienced play therapists and child and adolescent psychotherapists, we can connect you with the right support for your child from age 3 to 18.

We can also offer an online parent advice session with a play therapist, which may help you to put some strategies in place at home. These supports are also available to bereaved families.

'Play therapy helped my children through a very tough time. We were put in contact with a play therapist in our locality and this was really helpful and caused less disruption to the children.'



Child and Teen Rooms in Regional Hospitals

Childhood Cancer Ireland funds the refurbishment of in-patient rooms in the 16 paediatric wards in regional hospitals, where children who live outside of Dublin attend, in addition to CHI at Crumlin, under the Shared Care programme.

While in hospital, they are treated in isolation rooms and are unable to use the playroom or other ward facilities. We aim to create comfortable spaces by funding equipment including wall-mounted cardiac monitors and thermometers, TVs, DVD players, gaming devices, electric beds, lie-flat day beds for parents and vinyl wall art to brighten up the isolation rooms.

We also upgrade rooms for teenagers in Adolescent and Young Adult Centres of Excellence, including in-treatment rooms, treatment rooms, out-patient areas and hang out spaces.



Gold Ribbon Conversations

Our podcast features various stories related to childhood cancer – from parents whose child is going through treatment, to survivors, siblings and bereaved families. We also talk to the experts who support families along the way. Gold Ribbon Conversations is available on all podcast platforms.



Financial Advice & Information

We are delighted to partner with LIA, the Centre of Excellence for the education and development of financial professionals, to offer free access to financial advice, information and planning to help you manage your finances, both during and after treatment. We can match you with a Qualified Financial Advisor in your area to access this free support.



Webinars

We hold expert-led webinars on a range of topics, including education, parenting while your child is in treatment and bereavement.



Opportunities for Connection

Childhood Cancer Ireland holds monthly online Coffee Mornings, which provide an informal and supportive environment to meet other parents and share tips and information.

We also run family events throughout the year so keep an eye on our website and social media.



Financial Support during Relapse or Recurrence

We provide a grant for families experiencing a relapse and/or recurrence of their child's cancer. We will also signpost to any other appropriate services to ensure that families have all the support they need.



Bereavement Support

We support families bereaved through childhood cancer with information and signposting, counselling, play therapy and information webinars. We also offer a bereavement grant to support families financially at this difficult time.



Individual Psychological Support

One-to-one psychological support is also available through our Principal Clinical Psychologist Dr Mairead Brennan, who has a wealth of experience supporting parents, young adults and teens, throughout their cancer experience. This support is also available to bereaved parents and siblings.

'The psychology sessions are the most valuable sessions for me, there is a lot to deal with, a lot to unravel and a lot to face.'



Advocacy

Through our advocacy work we give a voice to the quietest people in the room – children with cancer. We ensure that survivorship and the long-term impacts of a cancer diagnosis and treatment, which may impact both physical health and emotional wellbeing, are recognised and supported in both policy and practice.



Annual CAYAS Conference

The annual CAYAS (Childhood, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancers & Survivorship) Conference is hosted by Childhood Cancer Ireland and CanTeen Ireland. This event highlights the lived experience of parents, families, patients, and survivors by providing them with a platform to collaborate and connect with medical experts, healthcare researchers, and others.

www.cayasireland.ie



CAYAS
CHILDHOOD, ADOLESCENT, YOUNG ADULT
CANCERS & SURVIVORSHIP



All of our supports are provided free of charge to families impacted by childhood, adolescent or young adult cancer. We do this work without Government funding, relying on the generosity of public and corporate donations. Every donation directly helps families all over Ireland.



Contact us...

Contact us to learn more about
or access any of our supports:

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