



*Introducing the
Child Cancer Foundation*

*Nothing can prepare you
for the news your child
has been diagnosed
with cancer.*

You will be faced with a lot of new information and there will be important decisions to make as your child starts treatment and family routines change to accommodate this. We understand that at the beginning of your journey with child cancer you are simply focused on getting through each day. We also understand that later on you may need assistance to get your family's life back on track. No matter what stage of the journey you are at, Child Cancer Foundation can support you.



Sydnee and her mum Amanda.

Front Cover: Mason and his
parents Ivan and Victoria.



Child Cancer Foundation

Child Cancer Foundation provides essential support to children impacted by childhood cancer and their families – now and into the future.

We have supported thousands of children and their families for over 40 years; our history is the source of our knowledge and expertise. Gathering information and support is the best way to look after your wellbeing when your child is facing cancer.

We are not doctors or medical experts, so the information you receive from us is not medical advice, rather we are here to help you navigate new challenges and access support services.

The more people you have in your corner the better. The support you may receive from your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues will be invaluable at this time. Think of us as another addition to your support network.

No matter what stage of the journey you are at, Child Cancer Foundation are here to help.

Family Support

Family Support Coordinators, located throughout New Zealand, work as a team to support you and your child.

Every family brings their own strengths to a situation, but sometimes extra support is useful.



Logan with his parents
Kylie & Simon

Family Support Coordinators...

- ☆ Provide one-to-one support in hospital, at home and in the community.
- ☆ Help you identify your strengths, to stay resilient and work through the challenges.
- ☆ Recognise the importance of your wellbeing and supporting you with this.
- ☆ Coordinate short-term financial support.
- ☆ Deliver the Beads of Courage® Programme.
- ☆ Provide opportunities to connect with other families.

Parents often talk about the “new normal” that comes with facing a cancer diagnosis. We recognise the impact of diagnosis on all aspects of life. Different milestones on the journey can bring stresses and new challenges, months or years after diagnosis, that are hard to face alone. Assistance with getting information and support can help you with decision making, reduce stress and help you gain a sense of control over the situation.

There will come a time when you will no longer need one-to-one support from a Family Support Coordinator. Recognising this, we will talk about discharge from the Family Support Service and what this will look like. Your family may choose to continue to be supported through our Support Programmes and Connect Groups.



Arsenah, diagnosed aged 9,
and her sister Jamie.



Siblings Camp



Connect Groups

Support Programmes

Support programmes are tailored to meet specific needs of dads, mums, siblings and bereaved parents. Navigating change and transitions of the child cancer journey can be difficult. These programmes provide support to help you find new ways to continue moving forward with strength.

Connect Groups

Our Connect Groups are led by volunteer parents/caregivers of children who have been affected by cancer and general volunteers who are passionate about supporting Child Cancer Foundation. Their purpose is to connect you with other families through shared experiences, and enable you to support each other within your community. They plan a variety of social events throughout the year for mums, dads, grandparents and families.

Beads of Courage®

The Beads of Courage® programme provides a tangible story of a child's journey, recognising their strength and courage. Each bead represents a treatment (for example, chemotherapy, injections, scans), an experience (hair loss, isolation, fever) or milestone (completion of treatment).

The first bead each child receives from their Family Support Coordinator is a hand-carved pounamu bead from Ngāi Tahu Pounamu. These beads are unique to the programme in New Zealand and are hand-carved by eight different Ngāi Tahu carvers.

Brothers and sisters of children with cancer can also participate in the Beads of Courage® Sibling Beads Programme. This programme acknowledges positive behaviour and helpful attitudes.

Families can find out more about the Beads of Courage® programme from their Family Support Coordinator.



Riley, diagnosed aged 10.

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Sydney, diagnosed age 4.