



The Kids on the Block Program on Childhood Cancer

Featuring: Diane Delaney (center), Joanne Spinoza (left) and Nam Nguyen (right)

Joanne is surprised to learn that her friend Diane is studying for a math test and shocked that a teacher would expect Diane, who has cancer, to take a test. But Diane explains, "I don't want to be treated any different just 'cause I have leukemia. Taking a test, just like all the other kids, kinda helps remind me that even though I have cancer, I'm just a regular kid."

The Kids on the Block Program on Childhood Cancer was originally developed in conjunction with the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, The National Cancer Institute, and the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation. The program features 11 year old Diane Delaney, who has acute lymphocytic leukemia. Script material addresses the social and emotional impact of childhood cancer, the importance of openness about life-threatening illnesses, the value of support from family and friends, and the reality of cancer versus the myths. The program also provides a definition of cancer and some details about cancer treatment.

The complete curriculum consists of large hand-crafted puppets, four scripts, props, follow-up activities, and resources.



**CALL OR WRITE TODAY
THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK, INC.**

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Script Summaries

Ask the Experts

When Nam visits Diane in the hospital, he is troubled because some kids at school have been saying mean, misinformed things about Diane. Diane encourages him to talk about what's bothering him. She then explains how cancer is different from other illnesses and reveals her plan to prevent teasing when she returns to school. **(Diane, Nam)**

Movin' Out

Nam has come to the hospital to help Diane pack up her belongings so she can leave the hospital. They discuss the presents and cards she received and the different things that friends and neighbors did to help Diane and her family. Nam learns why the support Diane receives from her friends is so important. **(Diane, Nam)**

Scared of the Dark

When Nam visits Diane after she has returned home from the hospital, the lights go out. Nam admits that he is afraid of the dark because he doesn't know what's going on around him. Diane helps Nam with his fear and explains how being afraid of the dark is a lot like not understanding cancer. **(Diane, Nam)**

I Can't Be Your Nurse!

Joanne accompanies Diane to the hospital's out patient clinic. She questions Diane about her central line and her chemotherapy, and Diane helps Joanne to better understand the truth about cancer. Joanne also finds out that Diane has a very special job for her to do. **(Diane, Joanne)**

NOTE: After each script, the children in the audience are given the opportunity to ask their own questions directly to the puppet characters.

The Kids on the Block, created in 1977, features life-sized puppets who, through the magic of live puppet theatre, teach children and adults about disabilities, medical and educational differences, and social concerns. Through the hard work and dedication of many community-based groups, **The Kids on the Block** puppets are able to touch the lives of people all over the world.