

“DEALING WITH CHILDREN”

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YABC Conference
Up Close and Personal 2

OVERVIEW

- ✓ INTRODUCTION
- ✓ CHILDREN'S REACTIONS AND NEEDS
- ✓ PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
- ✓ COMMUNICATION – NOT ALONE
- ✓ KEY POSITIVE STEPS
- ✓ SHARED JOURNAL
- ✓ KEY QUESTIONS/FEELINGS
- ✓ CHILDREN'S STORY BOOK
- ✓ CONCLUSION
- ✓ QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION

- Diagnosed with breast cancer Jan 31st, 2005
- 2005 The year of my treatments
- Mother of two young children
- Qualification - Personal experience
- Authored children's book in 2006
- Constant dialogue with parents diagnosed with breast cancer

CHILDRENS REACTIONS AND NEEDS

- Newborns/infants/toddlers
- Pre-schoolers
- School age children
- Teenagers

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- Toddler/school age children
- Honest and open communication
- Basic information told and not overloaded
- Explained what to expect
- Balanced positive message of hope with reality
- Open door policy
- Love and emotion
- Preserved family time
- Maintained sense of routine

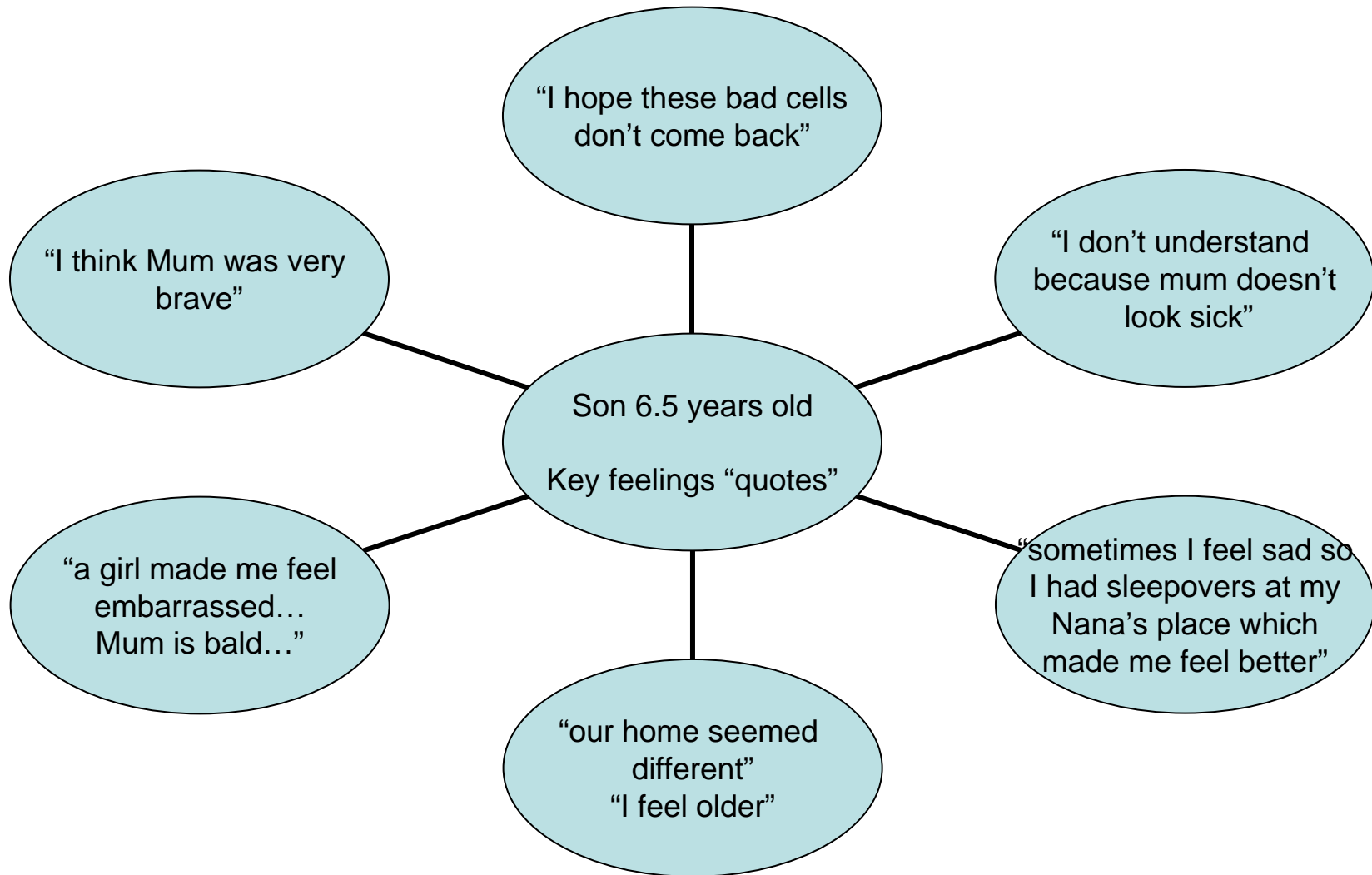
COMMUNICATION - Not Alone

- Diagnosed parent
- Family
- Medical personnel
- Child's teacher (class/sport/activity)
- Friends and their families

KEY POSITIVE STEPS

- Discussion with surgeon
- Hospital nurses
- Class teacher – letter
- Kylie Minogue
- Husband – shaved head!
- Journal
- Pets, birds, fish
- Maintaining positive routines i.e. holidays, birthdays, team sports
- Friends

SHARED JOURNAL



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KEY QUESTIONS/FEELINGS FROM CHILDREN

- Are you going to die Mummy?
- Am I to blame?
- Can I catch cancer?
- Does it hurt?
- Can I tell my friends?
- Can I help?
- Will your hair come back?
- How long until you feel better/normal?

CHILDREN'S STORY BOOK

- Entitled “My Mum has Breast Cancer”
- Younger children
- What is breast cancer?
- Hospital stays
- Chemotherapy
- Hair today – gone tomorrow!
- Radiotherapy
- Mum is better
- Our heroes
- Fundraisers

CONCLUSION

- Honesty
- Open dialogue
- Security
- Books – effective tool
- Let them help
- Listen
- Disciplines/routines
- Balance reality with positive communication
- Children react as you react
- What is best for you... and your child...

QUESTIONS?