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Talking cancer with kids
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 By: Ivanhoe Newswire



ORLANDO, Fla. -- One in eight women will get breast cancer, and 200,000 will be diagnosed this year. Terrie Ancira, a mother of two, is one of them. As mothers like her face their own life and death battle, their children will face challenges as well.

So what did she tell her children?
 "It's something called cancer, and

it's bad," Terrie said.

That lump metastasized to her heart, her brain, and her lungs. She's in a fight for her life and by her side are her children.

"She's just tired I guess and her head hurts," Terrie's 12-year-old daughter Maritere said.

Helping Terrie and her daughter through it is breast surgeon Shenin Sachedina, M.D., of the Central Florida Breast Center. She wrote "Metu and Lee Learn About Breast Cancer" to help the children of breast cancer patients.

"The children, everybody tries to protect, so the children find an isolated world by themselves," Dr. Sachedina explained. The book explains surgery, chemotherapy and radiation in all terms children understand, using characters like Radiation Rod Guy. He zaps the bad guys.

The book teaches Metu and Lee the truth about breast cancer. Two major studies found children of breast cancer patients suffered behavioral and emotional problems because they didn't have enough information to help deal with their mother's diagnosis.

Dr. Sachedina believes parents need to be honest about the disease - even if the news is bad. "All of these children have people who love them," she added -- and people who are loved by them!



WATCH THE VIDEO

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Maritere reads, "Mommy said she has breast cancer and you're going to make her feel better."

"She has breast cancer, we don't know why that is," Terry continued.

Maybe this book will give children the answers they need.

Although Maritere is 12 years old, her mother has been battling breast cancer since she was just 4 years old.

If you would like more information, please contact:

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