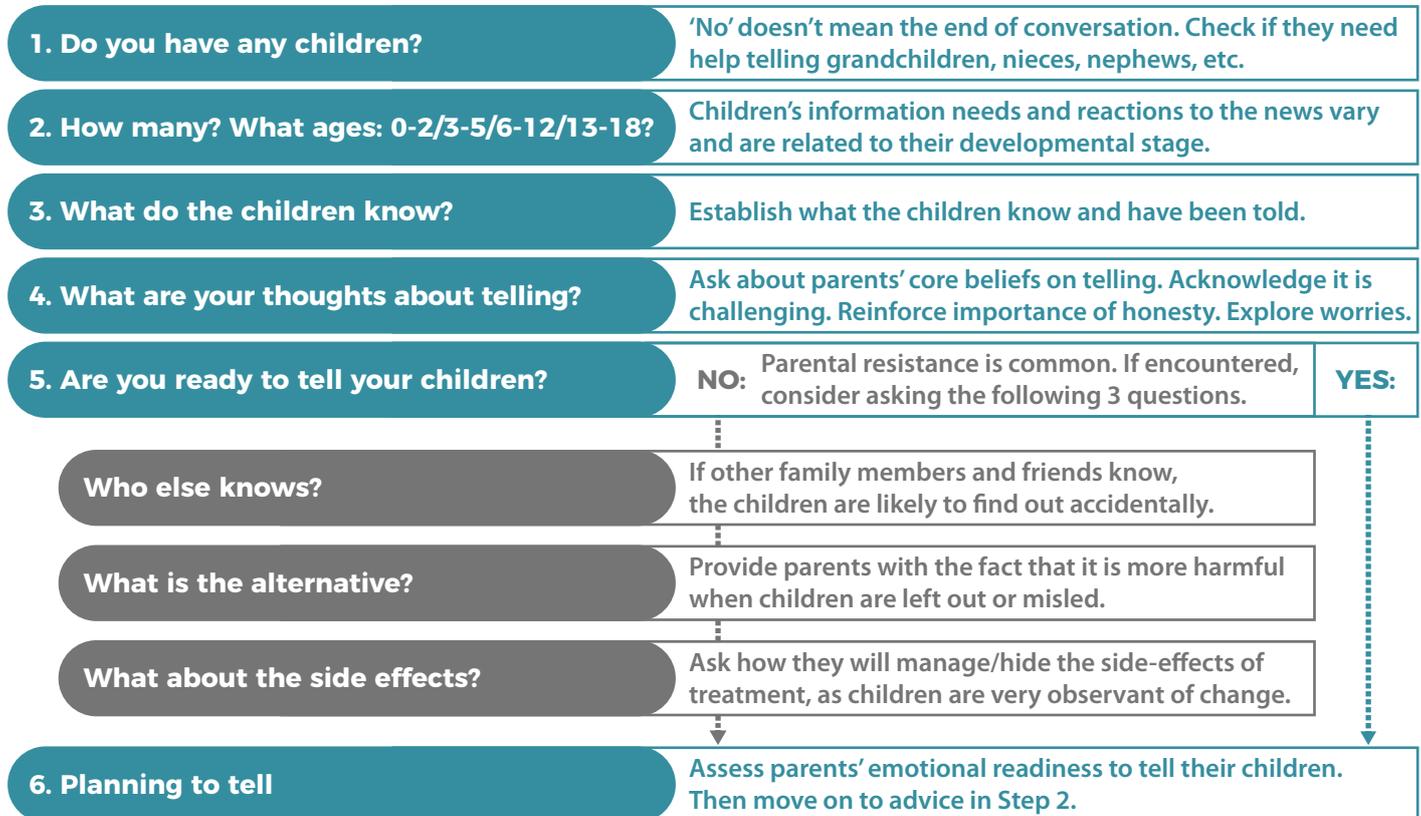


# Family-Centred Cancer Care Conversations: The Talking, Telling and Sharing Framework

## Step 1: Starting the conversation

The first part of the framework uses a set of questions as prompts to help open up the conversation with parents and assess their attitudes, beliefs and readiness about sharing their cancer diagnosis with their children. This also provides healthcare professionals with a key opportunity to promote family-centred communication.



## Step 2: Communicating with the children

The next part of this framework helps healthcare professionals give guidance to parents on when and how to communicate with their children about their cancer. It uses the 6W grid.

<b>Why?</b>	<b>Why is it important to tell the children?</b> No matter how hard parents try to keep 'things normal', children will suspect that something is wrong. They will notice things such as whispered conversations and many more phone calls and texts.	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Who should tell the children?</b> In principle a <i>trusted adult, ideally a parent</i> . If it's a two parent family, it is usually best if both parents tell the children together. If the parents are too emotional, another family member could have the conversation.
<b>When?</b>	<b>When is the best time to tell the children?</b> There may be no <i>right time</i> , so it's looking for the <i>best time</i> . It's important to tell the children as soon as the parent is emotionally ready, even if the treatment plan is still unknown.	<b>What?</b>	<b>What do the children need to know?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is cancer - use the word 'cancer'.</li> <li>• What part of the body - be specific.</li> <li>• What is the treatment - if known.</li> <li>• What side-effects are expected.</li> <li>• What is going to change for the children.</li> </ul>
<b>Where?</b>	<b>Where is the best place to start the conversation?</b> Encourage parents to choose a place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Without interruptions.</li> <li>• Won't feel rushed.</li> <li>• Able to talk and express feelings.</li> </ul>	<b>Words?</b>	<b>What words are appropriate to use?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use age-appropriate language.</li> <li>• Don't give false hope.</li> <li>• Communication is ongoing.</li> <li>• Words are only part of the telling – children pick up on body language.</li> </ul>