



LESSON PLAN: You Are Only as Strong as The Team Around You

Topic: You Are Only as Strong as The Team Around You

Subjects | Stream:

Biology
Career Development
Science

Grade Level:

Junior to Senior | Grades 4 to 12

Objective(s):

- To familiarize participants with the health care professionals that commonly make up a child’s brain tumour health care professional team.
- To encourage participants to maintain an open line of communication with health care professionals by first and foremost understanding each of their roles and responsibilities towards the patient.
- Participants are made aware of available counseling and mental health services.

Brief Summary:

This activity aims to teach students about the roles and responsibilities of the various healthcare professionals that form a child’s health care team as they progress from a brain tumour diagnosis to treatment options and aftercare.

Background Information:

Please see the *Instructions* for paired occupation-description cue cards.

Resources | Materials Required per Pair:

- X sets of 21 index cards (depending on the number of groups that the class is split into).
- Enough space for participants to form groups of 3-4 and match all 21 words with their associated definitions.



- One marker (for preparation of the index cards)

Activity Instructions:

Step 1: Divide the total number of participants into groups of 3-4.

Step 2: Fold 21 index cards in half lengthwise and write the names of the health care professionals (listed below) on the top half of the cards (these are your *word* cards) and a brief account of their roles and responsibilities (see below) in the bottom half (these are your *definition* cards).

- Each group of 3-4 participants will receive an envelope of the 21 index cards; the Facilitator must prepare *X* sets of the *word* and *definition* cards (depending on the number of groups)

Step 3: Cut the index cards in half, using a marker to place a dot on the back of the *word* cards; place the cards face down and spread out

Step 4: Participants may only turn one dot (*word*) card and one plain (*definition*) card for each turn that they have to match a word with its association definition

Step 5: When cards do not match, participants must turn them both face down again; when they do match, cards may remain face up.

- Repeat until all are face up and correctly matched.

Step 6: Once the activity is complete, instruct the winning team to read aloud all vocab words and associated job descriptions.

Commented [JG1]: I need a visual or explanation for these steps.

Commented [SG2R1]: I can make a video of myself preparing this activity to accompany the lesson plan

Commented [JG3]: BTFC to create this as a PDF





Audiologist	A professional that specializes in the assessment and prevention of hearing disorders, and in helping those who are hard of hearing.
Chaplain	Religious/spiritual or pastoral care is often provided by hospitals to provide support and assistance to people facing a health care crisis in a clinical setting. Such care may be provided in a multi-faith setting through specific prayers, rituals, ceremonies, or celebrations.
Child Life Specialist	Professionals that are trained to assess, understand, and directly work with a child to help them cope with a stress-inducing situation, including a diagnosis, hospitalization, and day-to-day treatment. Such professionals often advocate for a family-centered approach to a child's treatment and care.
Clinical Dietician	These members of the allied health care team have extensive post-secondary education in nutrition and can help children and their families to overcome complications in obesity and undereating.
Hospital Social Worker	These members of the health care team are professionally trained in providing individual, family, and group therapy. They are trained to meet various support needs of children and families, from practical concerns to immediate and ongoing coping strategies for brain tumour diagnosis.
Interlink Nurse	This member(s) of the health care team works with children and their families throughout their cancer journeys, from diagnosis to end of therapy or bereavement. These healthcare professionals provide support to children and youth under the age of 19 years who are receiving treatment at a hospital center in Ontario. Other provinces may have a similar role.
Neuro-Ophthalmologist	This healthcare professional supports a child as they experience visual difficulties resulting from tumour involvement in the areas of the brain that control vision. These professionals examine the relationship between neurological disease and visual problems, dealing with local pathology affecting the optic nerve, visual pathways, and the ocular motor system.





Neuro-Oncologist	These healthcare professionals are involved in the decisions regarding a child's care, including the time of diagnosis, administration of chemotherapy, and discussions and decisions regarding a child's post-operative management.
Neuropsychologist	These members of the healthcare team observe and measure different areas of functioning as they relate the workings of the brain to human behavior. They assess the different areas of cognitive and behavioral function and determine whether the results of the assessment are consistent with the child's disease progression.
Neurosurgeon	These members of the healthcare team specialize in the diagnosis and management of any problems related to diseases of the brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves. They will perform surgical procedures that aim to relieve the pressures of a tumor on the brain or spinal cord, while at the same time obtaining tissue for diagnosis.
Nurse Practitioner	These healthcare professionals are subject to additional education that enables them to work directly with physicians. They can perform a history and physical examination, order diagnostic tests or blood work, perform certain medical procedures, and prescribe medications.
Occupational Therapist	These healthcare professionals will evaluate a child's performance in activities of daily living by taking into account their movement, thinking, and sensory abilities. During rehabilitation, they will continue to reevaluate what the child can do as their independence increases.
Optometrist	An independent primary healthcare provider who specializes in the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, management, and prevention of disease and disorders of the eye and visual system, and associated structures.
Pediatric Endocrinologist	This healthcare professional is a sub-specialist who deals with disorders of endocrine glands including diabetes, growth, and puberty problems. They may be involved in caring for a child with a brain tumour at diagnosis and during and after cancer treatment, to screen for and treat hormonal problems that may





	arise due to the tumour or its treatment.
Pharmacist	This is an important member of a child’s interdisciplinary health care team, playing a key role in ensuring the safe and effective use of medications. They will collaborate with members of the health care team to provide comprehensive drug therapy management including drug selection, monitoring for side effects, and drug interactions, as well as assessing outcomes of drug therapy.
Physiotherapist	This is a healthcare professional that assesses and treats movement problems caused by disease or injury. They will look at and treat a child if their motor function changes as a result of the tumour and/or its treatment.
Radiation Therapist	These healthcare professionals are specifically trained in planning and giving radiation treatment. They work closely with physicians to design, plan, prepare, and administer the radiation treatment. They are also responsible for the actual delivery of daily radiation therapy.
Pediatric Radiation Oncologist	This healthcare professional is specially trained in the use of radiation therapy as a treatment for a child’s cancer. They collaborate with physicians in the overall management of a child’s disease and will meet with the team to discuss treatment plans and the potential use of radiation therapy. They are responsible for prescribing the radiation, supervising treatment, and assessing a child during treatment and aftercare.
Pediatric Radiation Nurse or Radiation Therapist Coordinator	This healthcare professional is responsible for the coordination of a child’s radiation treatment. They provide daily supervision of a child’s care during therapy and are available to provide families with information regarding any general concerns and support throughout their child’s treatment.
Successful Academic and Vocational Transition Initiative Counsellor	This member of a child’s health care team supports the educational and vocational goals of youth aged 16 and over. They ensure that accommodations are provided to youth dealing with late effects in high school, college, university, and/or work environments.





Speech-Language Pathologist	These healthcare professionals evaluate a child’s communication functioning using a variety of informal activities, standardized tests, and behavioral observations. They provide consultation, education, and strategies to help improve a child’s speech, and language difficulties as well as maximize their communication strengths.
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Lesson Extension Ideas:

