

## Practical tools....Sharing knowledge

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Children with chronic renal failure participate in daily family life, school, and sports just like any other child. However, it can be difficult for young patients and their parents to talk about their disease with siblings and friends.

Parents, teachers and others involved with children with chronic renal failure often ask us (among others):

- What is the best way to talk about the disease at school?
- How should parents talk to the siblings about the disease?

Following these questions, our multidisciplinary team decided to develop two practical tools aimed at talking with children about chronic renal failure.

### 1. Presentation toolkit

This toolkit can be used to inform classmates and teachers about haemodialysis. It contains examples of medical instruments, pictures about a day at the dialysis ward, a DVD and instruction cards about kidney functioning and dialysis. These tools provide the affected child in talking about the disease.

The toolkit is developed for children and young adolescents aged 5 to 14.

### 2. Children's book titled: Fleur...gewoon anders, mijn zusje dialyseert thuis [Fleur...just different, my sister dialyses at home]

This book is developed for siblings of children on peritoneal dialysis. In the book, a day of Fleur and her brother's life is explained in pictures and short texts.

The book is developed for siblings aged 2 to 6.

Our tools are a great success, and we would like to share our knowledge and experience in order to make these tools available for other dialysis centres.