



Share the Power Of a Wish®



PARENTS' GUIDE



When is the best time for a wish?

Families have told us that beginning the wish process early is beneficial, giving the child something fun and positive on which to focus his or her attention, which can help them as they go through treatment and hardships.

Must a parent wait for a physician or social worker to suggest Make-A-Wish?

No. You are welcome to call us directly at 1-800-464-9474 or email wish@makewish.org.

Must a child be terminal or dying to be granted a wish?

No. The Make-A-Wish Foundation fulfills wishes for children with life-threatening medical conditions. In fact, more than 80% of the children we have served are still planning for the future.



Does our family's financial status matter?

No. Financial status does not affect whether a child is eligible for a wish and is never considered.

What if our family does not want publicity?

We respect and protect the child's and family's right to privacy. Publicity will never be given without permission, and a family may decline at any time.



Won't accepting a wish mean we've given up hope for our child's recovery?

Many people mistakenly think we grant wishes only to children with "terminal" conditions. We see wish granting as life-affirming and hope-filled. Families and medical personnel often tell us that a wish encourages a child to fight for and look forward to the future, especially when they are going through treatment. In fact, more than 80% of the children we have served are still planning for the future.

Who is involved in a wish?

Most wishes include the immediate family, including siblings under the age of 18 who reside with the child. We know a child's illness affects the entire family and a wish can provide at least one outcome that is positive for everyone.

How long does it take to grant a wish?

Our goal is to grant all wishes within six months of the referral whenever possible. We work closely with the child's attending physician and family to determine the most appropriate time for the wish to be granted.

We can afford to pay for a wish ourselves. If we accept this wish, will this be unfair to other, less fortunate families?

All medically qualified children are eligible for a wish, regardless of family income. Even if a family can afford to fund the wish themselves, we seek to bring elements of surprise, magic and fun to the wish experience that many families may not be able to achieve. We have never had to turn down a wish or limit a child's imagination for his/her wish because of a lack of funds. We take pride in fulfilling a wish for every qualified child, regardless of race, creed or social-economic status.

How will a wish help my child?

We receive many testimonials from parents after their children have received a wish. To read some of these statements, please go to www.makewish.org.

My child just turned 18 years old. Does s/he still qualify to be granted a wish?

Our guidelines state that a child must be under 18 to qualify. We cannot make exceptions.

