Maintaining the connection between your child who has cancer and his/her brothers and/or sisters at home can be a challenge. Here are some fun and creative ways to help keep them in touch during hospital stays:

1. Plan regular telephone check-in times for private sib-to-sib conversations.

2. If your in-patient child is feeling up to it, have your children use a journal to write messages, poetry, drawings or other expressions to one another. Bring the journal back and forth from the hospital for each child/teen to read and create a message back. Have them call it the "Yo-Yo Journal."

3. Use Skype, FaceTime or other online tools to allow sib-to-sib live chats.

4. Use a lap top, tablet or phone with video capability to create a short "how we're doing" or "here's what's going on" video. Send these videos over email or a text to show, talk and tell messages back and forth between siblings. Remember to save these to look at years down the road!

5. Have a sibling "Storytime." Your children can use technology to read to each other.

   Together, create a "Question of the Day" for your children to answer back and forth to one another. For example: If I could go anywhere in the world, where would I go? Or... What's one word I'd use to describe my day today... and why?

6. Text, text, text! Send short fun, funny or loving text messages from the hospital room.

7. Take pictures (with a camera or phone) around the hospital - of your child's room, the hallway, the equipment, the staff, pictures on the wall - everything to give a "virtual tour" for your SuperSib to see and ask questions. Update this "tour" regularly. You can also do this for your inpatient child by taking pictures of their friends, pets, house, etc. to help ease homesickness.

8. Encourage brothers and sisters to draw pictures, write letters or daily emails to each other... "pen pals."

9. Have a "Saturday Sibling Special Feature" when your in-patient child and child at home watch the same movie. Afterwards, they can call and talk about favorite parts! Each week they can take turns picking out the movie they will watch together.