

# BROADCAST-An OSF inventor helps kids play safely through cancer

## Anchor lead-in

In the U.S., nearly 16-thousand kids under the age of 19 are diagnosed with cancer and many of them require a port for their treatment. The devices are close to the heart and deliver life-saving medicine, but they limit how rough kids can play. Until now. An exercise physiologist at OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois has collaborated to develop a device to let kids with cancer play carefree through treatment.

-----

Seven year-old Amaneigh (uh-MAHN-ee) Stevenson of Bloomington, Illinois has Stage 3 Hodgkin lymphoma and she'll be receiving six months of treatment through her port. Her mom didn't let her ride a bike or do her favorite thing – gymnastics for fear her port could be dislodged. But, then came PortGuard.

The device was created by Nick Kemp of OSF Children's Hospital in collaboration with OSF Innovation Studio. The lightweight device with adjustable straps can be worn under clothing and is a protective shield – with a hard plastic mold fashioned over the port. Amaneigh is now back to doing cartwheels

...

**"It makes me feel protected. It makes me feel safe. I don't wear it often, but I wear it when I'm doing stuff I'm not supposed to do right now in this situation (cancer treatment). It helps me, and I get to play with all the other kids. I love it a lot." (:23)**

OSF Innovation Studio is now talking with other children's hospitals to continue testing and getting feedback about PortGuard, towards a goal of a final design to be produced and used widely.