



Cure4Kids Classrooms
Instructor-led Medical Education



Overview of St. Jude Cure4Kids Classrooms

www.Cure4Kids.org

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Preface

This document is an introduction to St. Jude’s Cure4Kids Classrooms, an online learning management system (LMS).

Pre-requisite Skills

This manual is written for an audience who are already familiar with Cure4Kids and navigating its various menus.

Intended Users

This overview was designed for individuals who have an interest in the creation of a distance education course.

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Overview of Cure4Kids Classrooms

What is Cure4Kids Classrooms

Cure4Kids Classrooms is a full-featured Learning Management System (LMS) integrated into the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's Cure4Kids education and collaboration website, Cure4Kids.org.

A course can consist of a number of lessons, including reading resources, web links, assignments, forums, chats, recorded seminars, glossaries, quizzes, certificates, and evaluations. When used in conjunction with the Cure4Kids Live Meetings web conferencing tool, distance education classes can have a live participation component, which, when supplied with online content is referred to as "blended education." The C4K Classrooms LMS is based on the open source software, Moodle (www.moodle.org).

All Cure4Kids Classroom should fulfill an expressed educational need in keeping with the overall mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and, secondarily, with the mission of the Cure4Kids educational program.

A well-designed online course can scale to benefit a large number of students in such a way that would be difficult to manage in a real time, face-to-face classroom. The time-shifting, 24 hour access nature of online education is particularly attractive if your students study after hours or reside in other time zones. Courses may be reused with minimal updates further reducing the per-student educational costs compared to a traditional, physical classroom. These are but a few of the many reasons to use a learning management system such as Cure4Kids Classrooms.

Despite all the advantages, it should be emphasized that the creation of a properly designed C4K Classroom takes considerable planning and commitment on the part of the instructor. An online course should be comprised of durable content that can be reutilized with regular updates. In most cases, it would probably not be advantageous to create an online classroom for a single iteration or for a very few students.

Above all, good communication with your students is essential for success. It is important to provide clear instructions and employ the best instructional design methodologies as possible since you probably will not have the ability to hold your students' hands every step of the way as they work their way through your course. Conveniently, C4K Classrooms offers a variety of useful communication tools. Your C4K Classrooms consultant can offer some suggestions in this area.

Cure4Kids welcomes instructors to contact us to discuss course ideas. After an initial information-gathering conversation, we will provide you with an application worksheet called the "C4K Classrooms Project Planner" (see appendix). The Project Planner helps us understand your target audience and educational goals and also helps you better define your target audience and objectives. We would be happy to work through this fairly short form with you.

There is a fairly significant investment of time on the part of Cure4Kids staff to set up and support a C4K Classroom, so while the Cure4Kids program looks forward to assist you in achieving your educational needs, its resources to do so may be limited. Depending upon the amount of support required, some cost-sharing may be proposed during the review of your project.

Support Personnel

Please consult with one of the following for more information:

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Once completed, the Project Planner is submitted for review by the International Outreach Educational Director.

International Outreach Educational Director

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(901) 595-4747 For more in-depth information about the full functionality of C4K Classrooms please refer to the full Moodle documentation available here: http://docs.moodle.org/25/en/Managing_a_Moodle_course