



Bereavement Policy

Policy statement

We believe that bereavement and loss are an inevitable part of living and growing. Early Years practitioners will provide opportunities within the setting for children to develop their own appropriate range of emotional, spiritual and intellectual responses to manage these experiences. Children need to talk about how they are feeling and may want to know why or how the person died and where they are now. Some children may prefer to talk to their friends or people outside of their immediate family.

Different ways your child may react to grief

Children's reactions can be intense and difficult to control. A child's response could be emotional and, or physical and it may be very different to an adults. If they are in shock, they might sob or laugh uncontrollably or start putting things away and clearing up.

It is common for children to feel angry and find it difficult to describe or understand how they feel, they could:

- become aggressive
- have tantrums
- become disruptive at Pre-school
- feel guilty
- self-harm.

The pre-school will act in a planned and agreed manner so that all staff know what is expected and can contribute their part in a way that is consistent with the values that have been adopted.

Staff shall be consistent in their use of terminology to ensure clear understanding of the concept of death.

The child's key worker or other named member of staff will be identified to keep in touch with the family, so contact from the family's perspectives is manageable.

What you can do to help

- Try to keep to normal daily routines.
- Be honest and use language that is appropriate to your child's age and understanding.
- Allow your child to ask questions about death and what dying means and answer them truthfully.
- Give your child time to grieve. Trying to distract them from their sorrow can cause problems later on.
- Give your child the facts about how the person died in a way they will understand.
- Avoid using metaphors for death such as "dad has gone to sleep", this could make your child afraid of going to sleep or believe that dad will wake up one day and come back.
- Talk to your child and include them in what is going on.
- Encourage your child to share how they are feeling and what frightens them.
- The emotions your child is experiencing may be very intense so encourage them to express their feelings.

The pre-school will

- Have clear expectations about the way it will respond to the death, not simply react.
- Provide a nurturing, safe and supportive environment where there are no expectations in their responses to the children's grief.

The family will

- Feel supported
- Be given an opportunity to express their feelings of loss.
- Have opportunities to understand and communicate with their child about their loss as a result of the activities provided by the pre-school.

The parents/carers will

- Be given guidance on how to support their child/children.
- Be aware of the support offered via the local authority.

Support and advice

There are charities offering advice, emotional support and practical help to families who have experienced the death of a loved one. Some services work directly with children, and others can train teachers to support children at their school.

Winston's Wish

08088 020 021

Hope Again

Guildford Street Chertsey Surrey KT16 9AG

0808 808 1677

Seeds of Hope Children's Garden

Stag Hill Guildford GU2 7YP

01483 547880

Childhood Bereavement Network (CBN)

8 Wakley Street London EC1V 7QE

020 7843 6309

Jigsaw4U

020 8687 1384

Grief Encounter

0808 802 0111

Saying Goodbye Project

Welcare House 53-55 Canbury Park Road Kingston-upon-Thames KT2 6LQ

020 8547 1552

Daisy's Dream

PO Box 4738 Twyford Reading Berkshire RG10 9GT

0118 934 2604

Signed on behalf of the pre-school... 

Position within group.....Chairperson.....

Review date.....22nd November 2023.....