

Concept of Death	Death seen as temporary, reversible.
Grief Response	<p>Feel responsible for death due to magical thinking, i.e. "I was mad at her and wished she'd die. I made it happen."</p> <p>Repetitive questioning: Why? How?</p> <p>May act as though nothing happened.</p> <p>Feel distressed and confused.</p> <p>May see processing through play, acting out what they learned has happened, or increased aggression in play.</p>
Signs of Distress	<p>Overt signs of grief such as sadness, anger.</p> <p>Feelings of abandonment and rejection.</p> <p>Changes in eating and sleeping.</p> <p>Nightmares.</p> <p>Violent play.</p> <p>Behavioral problems.</p> <p>Attempt to take on role of person who died.</p>
How You Can Support	<p>Simple, honest explanation of death: "when something happened (trauma, illness, accident) to cause someone's body stop working. They no longer can think, feel pain, eat or play."</p> <p>Avoid euphemisms, e.g. sleep, gone away, lost.</p> <p>Check to see if understand explanation.</p> <p>Expect repeated questions.</p> <p>Provide the opportunities to express feelings and learn coping strategies.</p> <p>Reassurance that they are not responsible for the death, and reassure their safety and health.</p>