

Bereavement and Loss

Children with Special Educational Needs





Our Mission

***ALL** people to receive the help and support they need
having experienced a significant loss in their lives*



Sudden death



Grief is a universal emotion and applies to all human beings regardless of their abilities or disabilities

It is difficult to predict anyone's reaction to a sudden death

Children with special/additional needs are no different

Each person's reaction will be unique to them

ALL children need to:

- ❖ Have their questions answered
- ❖ Be listened to
- ❖ Be given appropriate information
- ❖ Be in a safe situation
- ❖ Have people that they trust



Children with Additional Needs:

- ❖ All the previous points plus particular attention to their individual needs and understanding
- ❖ Clear language - 'gone to sleep'
- ❖ Developmentally appropriate involvement- not age
- ❖ Explanation of death words – funeral, dead, coffin
- ❖ Pen portrait of child – what will help and what will hinder understanding





please
explain

- ❖ Be prepared to repeat an explanation until it is processed and understood
- ❖ Routines help all children feel safe
- ❖ Practical arrangements – will there be a change in living arrangements, who will cook tea
- ❖ Their emotions maybe difficult for them to understand



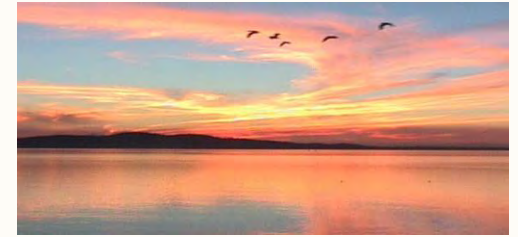
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- ❖ Need to know that it is ok to be happy
 - ❖ Acceptance of unfamiliar displays of grief
 - ❖ Help to express their grief – visual support where necessary
 - ❖ Help to understand that death is not like on TV or computer games



Support over time: *bereavement is a journey....*

- ❖ Schools , agencies and social settings accessing training in bereavement and loss
- ❖ Being prepared for 'When Somebody Dies'
- ❖ Having support programmes in place, 'SunRise' one of the Rainbows programmes
- ❖ **Grief has no time scale**; anniversaries, special days may always be difficult

What is SunRise?



- One of the Rainbows Bereavement Support GB programmes
- A structured 13 week programme
- Supports people with learning difficulties
- Trialled and used in a range of settings
- **Uses the skills and knowledge of those already supporting the participants**



Further Information

Rainbows Bereavement Support Great Britain

(Charity No 10584760)

Bereavement Training

Peer Support

'When Somebody Dies' CD

SunRise

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