



Needs of bereaved children

Dianne McKissock

- **To be able to talk** about the person who has died.
- **To have the right not to talk** about them if feelings are too raw at the time.
- **To have their privacy** respected.
- **To be allowed** to have and display photos of the person who has died.
- **To have special mementoes** of the person who has died, such as an item of clothing, a piece of jewellery, a lock of hair, or something that was special for that person.
- **To be able to make** a memory book/box if that is important to them.
- **To have people talk** about that person naturally, thereby tacitly acknowledging that the relationship will continue forever, even though the person has died.
- **To be able to acknowledge and celebrate** as appropriate, occasions that were special to that person, or to the family.
- **To have time out from grieving** – to spend time with friends.
- **To have things to look forward to**. For example, holidays, special outings, treats and developmental milestones.
- **A parent or other caregiver who explains** whatever is happening at the time – to be told the truth, simply.
- **To be included in family grieving** and other significant events.
- **To feel valued** and important.



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