

Supporting Children through Anticipatory Grief
February 6 – Bereavement Professional Chat Box Transcript

Tanya Williams: Our struggle with providing pre-bereavement to the children is that the caregivers are very protective of the children and will not allow staff to meet with the children.

Michelle Sarafian: Can you please say the 4 Cs once more?

Diane Snyder Cowan: Didn't cause it, cannot catch it, cannot cure it and will be cared for.

Joelle K. Osterhaus: To recap for those who would like to have this acronym again CARS: Connect, Assess Situation, Redirect to reestablish limits and boundaries.

Michelle Walsh: Yes, and I love many of our offerings and we can also always use improvement too.

Kevin Cross: Somewhat but needs improvement. Age appropriate reading materials, activity book such as a life book (with crayons).

Rose Gordon: I have bought some books that came with activity books recently as we are starting to see young children who are living with their Moms and witnessing dying grandparents.

Nate Haaland: What is bibliotherapy?

Candice Wilkins: We use "heartbeat" stuffed animals for children as we are able: instead of heartbeat we record voices of dying loved ones. At MSW discretion.

Kathy Thornton: What about items more geared toward males. Or boys. Sometimes they can be resistant to these types of things.

Kelly Thomas: For young ones I use a book that can record voices of person/reading book to them.

Colleen Brazil: We have volunteers who use an item of the bereaved person's clothing to make a memory bear for children to keep.

Beth DeCristofaro: Making a pillow from a patient's shirt also nice for volunteers to make.

Rose Gordon: I did witness a very young child give his favorite comforting "blankie" and to his aunt before she died, and his siblings were empowered to come closer to her and give her cards they made, even though she was no longer responsive. In this way, by coming close in the facility, they knew she hadn't just disappeared.

Nicole Walker: Think that would be a great topic and would love the handout! (suicide).

Lisa Wilson: I have used videos to help them process the terminal illness.

Jennifer Rigsbee: I am planning a one-day kids grief camp. Do you recommend the parent to attend or not?

Michelle Sarafian: How have you explained cremation?

Rose Gordon: Wonderfully comprehensive in a short amount of time. Thank you.

Carla Pilgreen: Would these be good for post death also?

Candice Wilkins: Great presentation, will share ideas with our bereavement staff. Thank you!

Michelle Sarafian: Very good presentation...thank you so much.

Jessica Freeman: Great presentation, thank you very much! SUPER helpful!

Deborah Shumate: Thank you! Great presentation.

Danielle Brown: Awesome presentation! Thanks so much! :-)

Carmen Schimmer: Great presentation and wonderful information!! Thank you very much!!

Beth DeCristofaro: Excellent and Useful, thanks Melissa.

Shirley Otis-Green: Thank you - so very comprehensive and compassionately done! Thank YOU so much!

Jessica Yandell: Thank you so much for this opportunity to learn.

Theresa Ellison: Thank you this will enrich my bereavement position with hospice.