



BEST PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

Supporting children, young people and families through bereavement in the community.

1. GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES

Children and young people should be encouraged to contribute to funerals and remembrance. Ask them to write prayers or something to be read out. Support them to work together towards a creative project remembering the person they have lost. Give them a voice and listen to them.



2. WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

The family must be at the centre of any response. Work with the family, the school and any other relevant agencies. Consider what your role is and what level of involvement will be most helpful.



3. ONGOING REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance can be immediate and ongoing. Anniversaries and memorials will be particularly significant.



4. SAFE SPACES AND PEOPLE

Children and young people will likely already have places and people with whom they feel safe. Encourage them to continue to access those people and places where possible.



5. LOOK AFTER YOURSELF

This is going to be challenging. Ensure that you are maintaining healthy boundaries, seeking support and acknowledging your own wellbeing.

