

Supporting Children Through Bereavement



Nursery children and their families may experience grief and loss of close family members or friends whilst with us in the nursery. We understand that this is not only a difficult time for families but it may also be a confusing time for young children, especially if they have little or no understanding of why their parent/carer(s) are upset and why this person is no longer around.

We aim to support both the child and their family and will adapt the following procedure to suit their individual needs and wants:

- We ask that if there is a loss of a family member or close friend that the parent/carer(s) inform the nursery as soon as they feel able to. This will enable us to support both the child and the family wherever we can and helps us to understand a potential change in behaviour of a child who may be grieving themselves
- The key person and/or the manager will talk with the family to ascertain what support is needed or wanted from the nursery. This may be an informal discussion or a meeting away from the child to help calm a potentially upsetting situation

There may also be rare occasions when the nursery is affected by a death of a child or member of staff. This will be a difficult time for the staff team, children and families.

Below are some agencies that may be able to offer further support and counselling if this occurs.

The Samaritans: www.samaritans.co.uk 08457 909090

Priory: www.priorygroup.com 0800 078 3720

Cruse Bereavement Care: www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk 0844 477 9400 helpline@cruse.org.uk British

Association of Counselling: www.bacp.co.uk 01455 883300

SANDS: <http://www.uk-sands.org/support> 020 7436 5881