

Grief Reactions and Interventions Differ by Age/Cognitive Development

Late Childhood 10 Years and Up

Common Belief of this Age Group	Fears	Suggested Intervention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children at this stage are ready and able to understand as much about death as adults are able to tell. • They are becoming more aware of the effect of death on others. • Generally, children at this stage are in transition from concrete to abstract thinking, so they may see death as part of the continuum of life, although they may still perceive it as painful and frightening. They may try to cover up feelings and fears. • They are developing their independence from parents but are not yet fully established individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These children become anxious about their own mortality. • They are concerned with their own security and about the impact death has on others. • Concerns may be manifest in regressive behaviours, acting-out, withdrawal or endless questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be reassuring. • Be respectful of their questions and desire for accuracy. • Teach it is normal to feel sad, angry or lonely. • Share that it is all right to cry openly and talk about death.

It may be helpful to reprint this page for staff.