



Important Considerations

As You Become Involved in Children's Grief Awareness Day Activities

The purpose of Children's Grief Awareness Day is to call attention to the prevalence of children's grief and of the needs of those children around us who have had someone close to them die. Through this attention, it is our hope that a greater level of understanding can be gained by all about how they can support someone who has suffered such a loss.

As an important person within a school, daycare, after school program, community organization, or in the life of any child, there are a few things that are important for you to be aware of as you become involved in Children's Grief Awareness Day:

- The purpose of Children's Grief Awareness Day is to call attention to the issue of children's grief, not to any particular child or children who have suffered a loss.
- Some children will want their grief recognized while others will prefer to keep it private; always be certain to check with any child before calling attention to his or her circumstances.
- The activities of Children's Grief Awareness Day can cause a possible "trigger" reaction in those who have had someone close to them die, regardless of how much time has passed since the death. Be alert for signs of grief reactions and be prepared to provide support as needed.
- If in a school setting, all school personnel should be made aware of any Children's Grief Awareness Day activities whether or not the personnel are directly involved.
- If possible, parents and guardians should be made aware of any planned activities as well.
- All messages used in conjunction with any activity should be appropriate to the developmental age of the children involved.

