



Bereavement Policy

Glendee ELCC

Many children will have experienced loss or bereavement at some point within their life's and as a centre we want to ensure that we provide a place of normality, stability and security during these times. We also want to support our families as we are aware this impacts all.

Experiencing intense feelings is a common, normal reaction to bereavement and loss and part of the healing process. Sometimes we learn to live with the loss, but for some people the difficulties associated with it are prolonged and persistent. Within this policy we will detail our practice that will support children and young people through bereavement and loss.

AIM

At Glendee we have devised four main aims as a centre we follow to ensure that we can positively support children during times of difficulty.

TALK – Take the time to allow children opportunity to talk and ask questions. Children find it helpful if they can talk about what has happened in their life's, helping them to make sense of it with a trusted supportive adult.

USE APPROPRIATE EMOTIONAL LANGUAGE – Use appropriate language that enables the children to express their feelings and emotions appropriately. As a supportive and trusted adult, it is imperative that we are honest for children to regulate and make sense of their emotions.





ACKNOWLEDGE CONCERNS – It is important that children trust in us and know that we are honest even if the situation that presents is difficult. Staff will have confidence in giving children time to express their concerns as well as professionally being able to answer questions or queries honestly in order to reassure the child.

CREATE ROUTINES – Within the centre we strive to create an environment that provides continuity for children during difficult times. Routines are important as these can be reassuring to children and allow them a sense of control within a disrupted home life due to bereavement or loss.




Practices within the environment will be key to allowing children opportunities to express their feeling and emotions allowing professional practitioner the opportunity to support the child effectively.

CURRICULUM




Telling the story (the story of the bereavement/general/both)

-  Puppets.
-  Story books related to bereavement and loss linked with emotion and feelings.
-  Small World – Role Play.
-  Home corner – Role Play.

Expression/Feelings





-  Break out zone – emotions/ feeling resources.
-  Sensory Room – quiet space with resources to self-regulate emotions.
-  Oh Lila used within centre to discuss emotions.

Coping Strategies

-  Feeling boxes.
-  Worry dolls.
-  Hugs – RNRA bear.

Parents/Carers

At all times we will be collaboratively working with parents/families in order to ensure a consistent approach is maintained within the centre and at home in order to support the child. We acknowledge the parents/carer as the most significant support to children in understanding bereavement and loss. As a centre we want to support and work alongside them in order to make the process as positive as it can be. We will support parent/carers within the centre by:

-  Sharing practices and policies with the parents/carers.
-  Offering guidance to support and child and their self during these times.
-  Sharing Renfrewshire council support systems in relation to bereavement and loss.
-  Keeping parents consistently up to date during these times.

OUTCOMES

Staff

- 🧑 Training will be offered to staff in order to feel confident in supporting children and families effectively during times of bereavement or loss through RNRA.
- 🧑 Through RNRA and trauma informed practice staff will be confident in communicating and acknowledging our children concerns while being honest and professional.
- 🧑 SMT to support all staff as these times can be difficult for all to ensure positive wellbeing.

Children

- 🧑 Children will feel secure within our centre with trusted adults who they can talk to and share their emotions/feelings.
- 🧑 Curriculum will support practices within the environment that allow opportunities for children to express themselves with nurturing access to nurturing spaces.

Parents/Carers

- 🧑 Will feel supported during difficult times.
- 🧑 Parents will feel confident in communicating with staff allowing them to express their own emotions/feelings.
- 🧑 Parents will have access to appropriate guidance and support networks in order to communicate and support their child effectively.

Support and Guidance Website

- 🧑 <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/>
- 🧑 <https://www.winstonswish.org/>
- 🧑 <http://www.seasonsforgrowth.org.uk/>
- 🧑 <https://www.hopeagain.org.uk/>

Books

When Dinosaurs Die *by Laurie Krasny Brown*

The Invisible String *by Patrice Karst*

I miss you *by Pat Thomas*

A Place In My Heart *by Annetta Aubrey*

Elfa and the Box of memories *by Michelle Bell*

