

Bereavement and grief resources for children and young people

Name of resource	Author/publisher	Age appropriate	Review
The Good- bye Boat	Mary Joslin / Eardmans	2-10	Story. Lots of pictures, few words, very accessible, for religious or non-religious. Begins with Grandma and family on beach, follows their grief at her death (although this is never blandly stated you know that is what has happened) through to joy again and a final picture of golden boat arriving on a new shore. Highly recommended.
Always and forever	Alan Durant/Random House Group	2-6	Story. Death dealt with through a story about the grief of a group of animal friends who initially are unable to see an end to the sadness, but through the visit of a cheerful friend finally discover the way to laugh again and to remember their friend Fox with joy. Beautifully illustrated.
Sad Isn't Bad	Michaelene Mundy/Abbey Press	4-7	Information for children explaining the emotions they might encounter in the grief process. Illustrated with gnome like figures. Has lots of good ideas for ways children might express their grief.
When someone very special dies	Marge Heergard/Woodland Press	Junior school children	Workbook. Full of practical ideas and the opportunity to write, draw or make. Explains death as change and transformation. Good, practical and useful
Water bugs and dragon flies	Doris Stickney/The Pilgrim Press	3- all age	Story. Treats death as transformation and new life emerging from what seems lost and empty. Very accessible for all ages. I have used this story at countless funerals with children present – and held the adults attention. Prayers at the end for use with family and explanation as to how adults might use the book with children.
Alice's Dad	Bill Merrington/Kevin Mayhew	9 +	Story. Aimed at girls. A book to read together with an adult. Follows the emotions of a young girl as her father dies of cancer. Does not skip the range of emotions. Provides practical ideas and reflections at the end of each chapter.

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Jesus Still Loves Joe	Victoria Beech/Christian Education Publications	3-7	Story. A little boy's grief at the death of his sister. One of a series of 4, including, Maya goes to Hospital, Josh stays in Hospital, Sam and his special book - about a child facing his own death. Simply told, easy access, good illustrations. Emphasis on Jesus love reaching through life and beyond death.
Children and grieving	Janet Goodall/Scripture Union	Adults	Explains how child's understanding of death develops and give practical advice on helping both grieving children and children who are themselves dying. Covers babies through to 11 years old.
Helping children cope with grief	Rosemary Wells/ Sheldon Press	Adults	Book for parents, teachers, nurses, doctors and friends. Covers terminal illness, how to break the news to children, school attitudes, religious attitudes, speaks of various faith funerals and secular ones too. Clearly and succinctly written.
Saying Good-bye to Greg	Christine Chapman/ Barnabus Press	Adults	School based resource. Uses story form set in 'real -life' explores how a Junior school community copes with the sudden death of a pupil. Goes through bereavement process, explores spiritual issues, examines children's attitudes, questions where God is in the situation. Ends with 'Moving on'.
Parenting a Grieving child	Mary DeTurris Poust/Loyala Press	Adults	Specifically written for parents helping their children come to terms with grief. Uses true life stories from parents and professionals to help parents understand the grief process and how it might exhibit at different ages. Contains clear reference points for reflection and practical suggestions for helping child to express grief.
Naming the Child	Jenny Schroedel/ Paraclete Press	Adults	Deals with miscarriage, pre-natal and neo-natal death. One of the most helpful and moving books I have read dealing with this area of life, so often neglected in the past. Uses real life stories to explore the delicate and painful issues surrounding this time of acute sorrow. Eminently accessible – a must on the shelves of any minister.

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