

Bereavement Care Policy

Many of the children in our care are likely to experience the death of a pet; some may lose a close relative or family friend during their time at nursery. The wellbeing for everyone is our top priority.

AIM

Our aim is to foster a caring attitude to those suffering bereavement.

To encourage a consistent, yet flexible/individual approach to the situation.

To inform all members of staff and parents/carers of possible approaches, at an appropriate level of detail.

The owner will be the bereavement lead but in her absence the Manager will take on this role, communicating with staff, the family or families. In some cases the key-person may be the most appropriate person having built up a strong relationship with the family.

BOOKS

We have a number of books to support children with the concept of loss and we will share these directly with parents in these circumstances and read them during the nursery session if we feel it is appropriate.

Guidelines:

These guidelines are more relevant and appropriate in cases where the loss concerned is of a close relative or friend but can and should be adopted according to individual circumstances.

Children should be allowed time to grieve and know that tears are often an outward sign of that grief.

Staff will find the time to listen and talk and do their best to comfort when necessary. Children will be made aware that staff will try to help and support them to come to terms with their feelings.

A distressed child should be allowed time and given access to materials in order that they may express their feelings in their own way.

The possible fears insecurities and emotions of other children which may arise from the situation should be recognised and addressed sympathetically.

Religious, cultural and social backgrounds, as well as parental wishes, should be taken into account when considering appropriate responses.

The nursery will actively consider a CAMHS referral in all cases of bereavement. A CAMHS practitioner would provide regular sessions in nursery for child and family support on a casework basis.



We will also refer families to services provided by Surrey, e.g., [surreycc.gov.uk/directory - surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk](http://surreycc.gov.uk/directory-surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk) and the Surrey Local Offer.

The nursery will also provide its own resources to support families, children and staff. A bereaved child, especially if the death concerned is that of a close relative, parent, sibling or friend, is likely to be feeling confused, anxious and insecure. We aim to provide a stable and supportive environment in which he/she is able to gradually come to terms with the loss. It is recognised that this process is lengthy and support is likely to be required long term.

