



Talking to Children about Loss

Wednesday 19th October 2011

PROGRAMME:

9.00-9.30	Registration and refreshments	
9.30-9.50	Welcome	Jane Bradshaw
9.50-10.10	Children and Loss. Setting the scene	Deborah Robinson & Julie Baker
10.15-11.15	You don't have to be a therapist!	Brenda Mallon
11.15-11.30	Break	
11.30-11.45	Sharing Our Stories	Sophie & Sammie
11.45-1.00	Workshops	
1.00-1.45	Lunch / networking / stalls	
1.45-2.30	Workshops	
2.30-3.15	Children's concepts of death and life after death	Rachel Jepson
3.15-3.45	Supporting bereaved families in school	Nick Blackburn
3.45-4.00	Plenary and closing remarks	Jane Bradshaw

WORKSHOP CHOICES:

All four workshops will run in the morning and be repeated in the afternoon. There are a limited number of places for each one. Please sign up for the two workshops of your choice.

Creative ways of engaging with children and loss – Brenda Mallon

This session provides an opportunity to explore the use of creative activities to enable children to express their thoughts and feelings.

Handling difficult questions – Julie Baker

This workshop will consider how we can respond to children's questions around death, dying and bereavement.

Creating a bereavement policy for your organisation – Deborah Robinson

This workshop will help those seeking to ensure that everyone within their organisation (schools, youth groups, church etc) knows how to respond to a child who is affected by bereavement.

Discussing death and dying through 'ultimate questions' – Rachel Jepson

How can we introduce and explore, in a more general way, the topic of death and dying with children and young people? This workshop will explore how to use group discussion or opportunities in the school curriculum to allow children to share their thoughts and ideas.

SPEAKERS:

Brenda Mallon

Brenda is an experienced psychotherapist counsellor, creative writing tutor, workshop leader and author. She trained as a teacher and began work with primary school children before working in the School Psychological Service. In 1980 she was one of the first people to introduce counselling into schools in Britain. After completing her Masters in Education at Manchester's Victoria University she began to concentrate on training teachers working with distressed and distressing children. Later she set up her own psychotherapy practice in Manchester and began her writing career.

Brenda offers one to one work with both adults and children and specialises in working with bereavement, loss and separation. She is the author of eighteen books including her latest, 'Working with Bereaved Children and Young People' SAGE 2010. Education.

Rachel Jepson

Rachel is a primary school teacher with over twenty years experience. She has a PHD in children's concepts of death and life after death.

Julie Baker

Julie is a qualified counsellor who works within the Family Support and Bereavement Service at St Teresa's Hospice. She has many years experience of working with children and families in both primary and secondary education. Julie also has a private practice as a clinical supervisor.

Deborah Robinson

Deborah is the manager of the Family Support and Bereavement Service at St Teresa's Hospice. Before joining the hospice she was a Macmillan Social Worker and also spent a number of years working in local authority. Deborah is also an ordained priest in the Church of England.

Nick Blackburn

Nick has been a school leader for 13 years and is currently the head teacher of Heathfield School in Darlington. He has recently set up a charitable trust to help address the well-being needs of pupils and families in the community. He believes that emotional intelligence is the key skill for leadership and has worked closely with St Teresa's Hospice in developing effective ways to support a number of bereaved children.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Safe Space

During the day, if people are personally affected by some of the things discussed, there will be a designated quiet area where you can go and have some time out. A member of our team will be available if you need some support.

Useful resources

- www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk
- www.winstonswish.org.uk
- www.childbereavement.org.uk
- www.cruse.org.uk
- www.riprap.org.uk
- www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk

Visit Winston's Wish for recommended reading lists of age appropriate story books.

Evaluation

This is our first conference so your feed-back will be really helpful to us. Please complete the enclosed form and leave it at the conference. Thank you.