

Supporting Children Through Bereavement



Grass Roots Nursery Group: Supporting Bereavement in the Nursery Setting

Purpose:

This policy outlines procedures for supporting children and families experiencing grief and loss at Grass Roots Private Day Nursery.

Key Principles:

- **Sensitivity and Respect:** We acknowledge and respect the diverse ways individuals experience grief.
- **Individualised Support:** We provide support tailored to the specific needs of each child and family.
- **Open Communication:** We maintain open communication with families to offer comfort and understanding.

Procedures:

- 1. Informing the Nursery:**
 - We encourage parents to inform the nursery staff as soon as possible about the loss of a close family member or friend.
 - This allows us to anticipate potential changes in a child's behaviour and offer relevant support.
- 2. Initial Support:**
 - Upon receiving the news, the key person and/or manager will meet with the family to assess their needs and preferences.
 - The conversation may be informal or a separate meeting held to ensure a calm and supportive environment.
- 3. Supporting the Child:**
 - Based on the family's wishes and the child's age and understanding, we will support the child through age-appropriate discussions, books, and activities.
 - We will create a safe space for the child to express their emotions and ask questions.
- 4. Supporting Staff:**
 - In the event of a staff or child's death, the nursery will offer support services to staff, children, and families.
 - This may include access to counselling services or group support sessions.
- 5. External Resources:**
 - We maintain a list of external resources, including bereavement support services, to guide families seeking further help.

Additional Considerations:

- **Confidentiality:** Maintain confidentiality regarding the details of the loss.
- **Continuity and Routine:** Ensure a sense of normalcy for children by maintaining daily routines as much as possible.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Be mindful of cultural differences in grieving practices and customs.
- **Staff Training:** Train staff on recognizing signs of grief in children and providing appropriate support.

By implementing these procedures, we strive to create a supportive and understanding environment for children and families experiencing loss.