

Autism Community Connection

Autismcc Yahoo Group Responds!

Our group is comprised of parents, educators and professionals in the autism community. We welcome parents to ask questions so that together we may share our wealth of collected knowledge and insight.

www.autismcommunityconnection.com - <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/autismcc/>

Subject: Explaining Death to a Child or Adult with Autism

A member of our group had a family member who passed away. Her son was confused by the death. She asked for advice on how to explain this difficult concept. Here are some replies:

When my father passed away, I made up a scrapbook with pictures of him and my girls so that they can hold onto his memory and look at it any time they want. We make special trips to his grave site and tell him stories of themselves and make a special flower to place at his grave site. Another good book, I cannot think of the title, but it was written by Maria Shriver.

"Carol Gray's Guide to Loss, Learning and Children with ASD" was a feature in the Jennison Autism Journal maybe a year or so ago and has some very good information. It covers the typical response of children and adults to loss and how experiences/responses of children with ASD may be different. It has guidelines and ideas about how to address loss with children with ASD, has an appendix on writing social stories and provides some additional resources.

<http://www.thegraycenter.org/shop/index.cfm?Action=ViewCategory&Category=20>

Author Benecia Aronwald has these great "Things You Can..." books that are very visual. One book is called Things You Can Save When you Lose Someone Close to Your Heart. It has nice illustrations and shows ideas of all the little items that can make you feel close to the person you lost. You can order at any bookstore. Amazon has the title shortened to Things You Can Save.