

Getting it right, getting it wrong...



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Bereavement Starts at Diagnosis...

Things we need to consider...

What is it...

Siblings or Parent?

Taking the long view...

Working with schools

The Role of Ritual...

What do they need from us...

Bereavement Starts at Diagnosis...

Who said this and where...

“Every child is precious and irreplaceable and the death of a child is an unbearable sorrow that no parent should ever have to endure”

(Gordon Brown 2009)



Bereavement Starts at Diagnosis...

Suffering

Is not a question that demands an answer

Is not a problem that demands a solution

It's a mystery that demands a presence...

When suffering comes into your life...



... it brings great loneliness and isolation. Your life becomes haunted; your belonging breaks. Suffering and pain can assail us with such ferocity, because darkness is so near us; within this darkness, our longing is numbed and calls out for release and healing...

JD Page 144

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The aim of the work is to leave families with what can only be described as a “good enough” memory of the life, dying and death of their child or in some cases children...

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School the most important place...



- ◆ Consent of parents and child...
- ◆ The only place that is left that is 'normal'...
- ◆ Sacred place...
- ◆ Containment...
- ◆ Boundaries...
- ◆ The different schools - Big versus small...

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What do children need from us?

***Children need presence
...not presents...***



Parents choices...

Mothers' stories of loss:
their need to be with their dying
children and
their child's body after death

Journal of Child Health Care, Vol 9, No 4, pages 288-300; 2006

Bereavement Starts at Diagnosis...

Communication...

*Effective communication is perhaps the
most important attribute of successful
medicine and nursing*

*The difference between strife and serenity
often depends on the meaning and
interpretation of a single word...*

yours...

Calnan (1983)

Bereavement Starts at Diagnosis...

Good communication...

“Good communication between health professionals and patients is essential for the delivery of high quality care. It is central to empowering patients to be involved in decision making

*Research evidence indicates that a ‘willingness to **listen and explain**’ is considered by patients to be one of the essential attributes of a health professional (along with sensitivity, approachability, **respect and honesty**)”*

The NHS Cancer Plan (2000)

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