

## **Cruse Bereavement Support NI**

Helpful resources for parents/guardians and professionals  
supporting bereaved children and young people

We help people through one of the most painful times in life  
– with bereavement support, information and campaigning.

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## Resources pack

We hope that you find our resources pack filled with tools and guidance helpful in supporting bereaved children and young people to move forward on their grief journey. Remember, our grief is as unique as we are, so it is important to discover and understand what type of grief support works best for your CYP – we hope this pack can help with that. Below we have stated the resource areas to be covered in this guide:

**Books**

**Apps**

**Podcasts/  
Online Support**

**Useful Links**

## Books

For CYP, books can bring a great comfort following the death of a loved one. They can offer a way to process difficult emotions, a simple reassurance that they are not alone, or a magical escape when grief becomes overwhelming. Find below a list of our recommended books ranging from under 5's to 16+. We have also added book recommendations for adults supporting bereaved CYP:

### **BOOKS FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5**



#### **Benny's Hat**

**By Juliet Clare Bell, 2017**

Benny's Hat is an illustrated children's book, which gently deals with the difficult subject of a sibling's death to cancer in a way very young children can understand. Told from the point of view of Friz, the book tells the story of her brother Benny's illness, death and Friz's grief. The book shows how children might deal with serious illness and death differently to adults and gives adult readers examples of how to support children when a sibling is not expected to live.

#### **Dear Grandma Bunny: A Miffy Book**

**By Dick Bruna, 2018**

Miffy and her family are really sad. Grandma Bunny has died and it's time for them to say goodbye and thank Grandma Bunny for everything she did for them. Suitable for very young children, this book tells the story of what happened and how Miffy felt and coped when Grandma died. This touching Miffy story celebrates the life and loss of loved ones. Simple illustrations and straightforward text combine to tackle the death of a loved one in a direct and uncomplicated manner.

#### **Goodbye Mousie**

**By Robie H. Harris & illustrated by Jan Ormerod, 2004**

This beautifully illustrated picture book tells the story of a little boy who's told that his pet mouse has died. At first, he doesn't believe it, thinking it's just asleep, but by asking lots of questions & with the help of his family he begins to accept Mousie's death. This would be very helpful to introduce death to young children and a starting point to discuss what happens after someone dies and the different feelings one may have.

**I Miss You: A First Look at Death**

**By Pat Thomas & illustrated by Lesley Harker, 2001**

This bright and colourful picture book very simply talks about life and death. It briefly covers a range of issues such as why people die, how you may feel when someone dies and what happens afterwards. It includes questions for the reader to answer about their own experiences and a section at the back for adults on how to best use the book. An excellent educational book, which could be used as a starting point for discussion.

**Is Daddy Coming Back in a Minute? Explaining sudden death in words very young children can understand**

**By Elke and Alex Barber, 2016**

This honest, sensitive and beautifully illustrated picture book is designed to help explain the concept of death to very young children. It is based on the real-life conversations that Elke Barber had with her then three-year-old son, Alex, after the sudden death of his father and is written in Alex's own words. The book provides reassurance and understanding to readers through clear and honest answers to the difficult questions that can follow the death of a loved one.

**Missing Mummy: A book about bereavement**

**By Rebecca Cobb, 2011**

This extraordinary book deals with the loss of a parent from a child's point of view. Beautifully illustrated, the book explores the many emotions a bereaved child may experience, from anger to guilt and from sadness to bewilderment. And importantly, the book also focuses on the positive – the recognition that the child is still part of a family, and that his memories of his mother are to be treasured.

**Stewart's Tree: A book for brothers and sisters when a baby dies shortly after birth**

**By Cathy Campbell, 2018**

A colourfully illustrated children's book to help explain sibling loss to young children. Ellen's new baby brother Stewart has been 'lost'. Ellen looks in all the cupboards for Stewart and even in the washing machine – then her family helps her understand that Stewart has died and isn't going to come back. The book ends with a guide to bereavement for children written by qualified clinicians.

**The I Love You Book**

**By Todd Parr, 2009**

This book celebrates the unconditional love between a parent and child. From the heartfelt to the lighthearted and with many moments in between that are sure to make readers smile and reminisce, this book helps families to remind children how much they are loved, each and every day.

**What happened to Daddy's Body? Explaining what happens after death in words very young children can understand**

**By Elke and Alex Barber, 2016**

This picture book aims to help very young children to understand what happens to the body after someone has died. Through telling the true story of what happened to his daddy's body, we follow three-year-old Alex as he learns about cremation, burial and spreading ashes. Full of questions written in Alex's own words, and with the gentle, sensitive and honest answers of his mother, this story will reassure any young child who might be confused about death and what happens afterwards.

**Why do things die?**

**By Christine Pym and Katie Daynes, 2020**

This wonderful, engaging lift-the-flap book offers simple answers to the sort of questions children ask about death, dying, grief, feelings and memories. The questions and answers are clear and straightforward and illustrated by charming drawings of animals. Suitable for children who have been bereaved and also for those who have questions about why things die.

**BOOKS FOR AGE 5 TO 8 YEARS**

**A Birthday Present for Daniel: A child's story of loss**

**By Juliet Cassuto Rothman, illustrated by Louise Gish, 2001**

Told by a young girl whose brother, Daniel, has died, she talks about how things have changed in the family. She also talks about the things she does when she is sad and how these differ from other members of her family. This book has small black and white pictures with minimal text but it conveys some important issues. It would be particularly useful to broach the subject of birthdays as it describes how the family remembered Daniel on his birthday.

**Always and Forever**

**By Alan Durant, illustrated by Debi Gliori, 2003**

Otter, Mole and Hare miss Fox when he falls ill and dies. They stay at home and don't want to talk about him because it makes them sadder. Then Squirrel visits and reminds them of all the fun times they had together. They all find a way to remember Fox and get on with their lives. Colourful, detailed pictures in this book emphasise the importance of holding on to memories.

**Badger's Parting Gifts**

**By Susan Varley, 1992**

Badger is old and knows he is going to die soon. When he does, the other animals think they will be sad forever, but they begin to talk about the memories they have of the things Badger taught them and learn to cope with his death. A lovely picture book that emphasises the importance of remembering the person who has died.

**Her Mother's Face**

**By Roddy Doyle, illustrated by Freya Blackwood, 2009**

This book is a sensitive portrayal of a young girl's grieving as she struggles to come to terms with the loss of her mother. Siobhan was just three years old when her mother died and Siobhan can no longer remember her face. She is given encouraging words by a kind lady in the park who tells her to look in the mirror to see the face of her mother through her own reflection.

**Luna's Red Hat: An illustrated storybook to help children cope with loss and suicide**

**By Emmi Smid, 2015**

This beautifully illustrated storybook is designed as a tool to be read with children aged 6+ who have experienced the loss of a loved one by suicide. Suicide always causes shock, not just for the family members but for everyone around them, and children also have to deal with these feelings. The book approaches the subject sensitively and includes a guide for parents and professionals by bereavement expert Dr Riet Fiddelaers-Jaspers.

**Muddles, Puddles and Sunshine**

**By Diana Crossley, illustrated by Kate Sheppard, 2009**

Published by Winston's Wish, this hardback activity book offers invaluable practical and sensitive support for bereaved younger children. Beautifully illustrated, it suggests a helpful series of activities and exercises accompanied by the friendly characters of Bee and Bear.

**Mum's Jumper**

**By Jayde Perkin, 2019**

A simple and heartfelt book that looks sensitively at loss and grief through the story of a young girl losing her mother. Told by the girl, this book explores the emotions of grief, including fear and anger, and draws on the personal experience of the author. This book can be used as a tool to introduce children to the concept of death, even if they haven't experienced it.

**The Copper Tree: Helping a child cope with death and loss**

**By Hilary Robinson, 2012**

When Olivia's teacher, Miss Evans, dies the children at her school are encouraged to think of everything that reminds them of her. Written with great care, touching sensitivity and humour The Copper Tree is about love and legacy and will help children understand that while sadness is an inevitable part of grief, death is not the end for what we leave behind can be everlasting.

**The Garden of Hope**

**By Isabel Otter, illustrated by Katie Rewse, 2019**

This story is about a little girl and her father who rebuild their lives and plant a 'garden of hope' after something happens: *'Things had changed since Mum had been gone...'* . Whether Mum has died or has left the family is not made clear. With some words added by the reader, this could be used in either situation and offers a comforting story of the two planting and growing together. The story features a BAME family and is for ages 4 to 10.

**The Huge Bag of Worries**

**By Virginia Ironside, illustrated by Frank Rodgers, 1996**

Jenny begins to worry about lots of different things and these worries build up and get out of control. She just can't get rid of them, until she meets the old lady next door who helps her feel better. A lovely story with fun illustrations encourages children to talk about their worries.

**The Magical Wood**

**By Mark Lemon, illustrated by Maia Walczak, 2018**

This magical story sensitively offers children and families an opportunity to share the journey of its characters finding their way through grief. With its imagery and language exploring the themes of bereavement; this story offers children and families time and a safety within which to talk about death, loss and emotions.

### [The Invisible String](#)

**By Patrice Karst, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff, 2018**

This accessible picture book offers a simple approach to coping with loss, loneliness or separation with an imaginative twist that children can easily understand. Even though you can't always be physically with your loved ones, there is an invisible string always connecting them to the people you love. A great tool for beginning conversations about death and for children who are dealing with loss.

### [The Little Flower Bulb: Helping children bereaved by suicide](#)

**By Eleanor Gormally, illustrated by Loki and Splink, 2011**

This book tells the story of Jamie, his mum and his twin sisters, and of how Jamie comes to deal with the death of his father. A beautifully illustrated book that will be helpful for parents when talking to children bereaved by the suicide of a close relative.

### [The Scar](#)

**By Charlotte Moundlic, 2012**

When the boy in this story wakes up to find that his mother has died, he is overwhelmed with sadness, anger and fear that he will forget her. He shuts all the windows to keep in his mother's familiar smell and scratches open the cut on his knee to help him recall her comforting voice. He doesn't know how to speak to his dad anymore, and when Grandma visits and throws open the windows, it's more than the boy can take – until she shows him another way to hold on to the feeling of his mum's love. With tenderness, touches of humour and unflinching emotional truth, Charlotte Moundlic captures the loneliness of grief through the eyes of a child, rendered with sympathy and charm in Olivier Tallec's expressive illustrations.

### [The Sunshine Cat](#)

**By Miriam Moss, illustrated by Lisa Flather, 1999**

Sunny the cat is loved by all his human family, but one day there is a knock at the door – Sunny has been killed in an accident. A sensitive story which aims to help children come to terms with death.

### [Saying Goodbye to Daddy](#)

**By Judith Vigna, 1991**

Clare's Dad died in a car accident and this book looks at changes in the family, difficult feelings, funerals and memories through the eyes of Clare. It would also be a good book to help parents understand the child's perspective. It gives good examples of how adults can answer children's questions, emphasising the need to be clear and honest.



**What Does Dead Mean? A book for young children to help explain death and dying**

**By Caroline Jay and Jenni Thomas, 2012**

This is a beautifully illustrated book that guides children gently through 17 of the ‘big’ questions they often ask about death and dying. Questions such as ‘is being dead like sleeping?’, ‘why do people have to die?’ and ‘where do dead people go?’ are answered simply, truthfully and clearly to help adults explain to children what happens when someone dies.

**When Dinosaurs Die**

**By Laurie Krasny, illustrated by Marc Brown, 1998**

This factual picture book uses cartoon dinosaurs to illustrate the text and comment on what is said. It is a bright and colourful book that explains death in a simple and unthreatening way. It covers many issues including ‘why does someone die?’, ‘feelings about death’ and ‘saying goodbye’. It would be an excellent resource for anyone caring for young children.

**Where is Uncle Al?**

**By Eva Hibbs, illustrated by Sarah Harrison, 2020**

Lily’s uncle died before she was born but when she asks where he is, she receives confusing answers from members of her family until her sister helps her understand. Featuring a multicultural family, this lovely book could help with conversations about death and beliefs about life. It could also be adapted to help children talk about any member of their family who had died before the children were born.

**Lost For Words (E-Book)**

**By Benjamin Brooks-Dutton, 2019: <https://www.ghll.org.uk/Lost-For-Words-Benjamin-Brooks-Dutton.pdf>**

The book – created to mark Children’s Grief Awareness Week 2019 – is made up of quotes, advice and corresponding emojis crowd-sourced exclusively from children bereaved from birth to late teenage years. This book was conceived and edited by Benjamin Brooks-Dutton; author of the Sunday Times Bestseller *It’s Not Raining, Daddy, It’s Happy*; award-winning *Life as a Widower* blogger and chair of the Life Matters task force for bereaved families.

## **BOOKS FOR AGE 9–12 YEARS**

### **Lifetimes: The beautiful way to explain death to children**

**By Bryan Mellonie and Robert Ingpen, 1998**

This sensitive book is a useful tool in explaining to children that death is a part of life and that, eventually, all living things reach the end of their own special lifetimes. It clearly explains about life and death focussing on plants, animals and insects before moving on to people. It emphasises that death is part of the life cycle and is natural and normal whenever it occurs.

### **Only One of Me: A love letter from Mum, Only One of Me: A love letter from Dad**

**By Lisa Wells and Michelle Robinson, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri, 2018**

This tender and moving rhyming poem, with charming illustrations which is both a love letter to Lisa's own daughters and a testament to the unwavering strength of parental love, a timeless message for families facing the challenges of bereavement. Mother of two, Lisa Wells, was diagnosed with terminal cancer at the age of 31 and these two books grew from her determination to leave a lasting legacy for her daughters and her desire to help other families.

### **Michael Rosen's Sad Book**

**By Michael Rosen, illustrated by Quentin Blake, 2004**

This book is a simple but emotive story chronicling Michael's grief at the death of his son Eddie from meningitis at the age of 19. He talks about what sad is and how it affects him and what he does to cope with it. A moving combination of sincerity and simplicity, it acknowledges that sadness is not always avoidable or reasonable and perfects the art of making complicated feeling plain. It is wonderfully honest and will appeal to children and adults of all ages.

### **Milly's Bug Nut**

**By Jill Janney, 2002**

A short, simple story of a young girl who's Dad has died. It talks about the ups and downs of a family finding their way through bereavement and how things slowly get easier as time goes. Milly misses her Dad and things are just not the same anymore. She knows when people die, they can't come back but she still keeps a wish to see her Dad one more time.

**My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece**

**By Annabel Pitcher, 2013**

Told through the eyes of 10-year-old Jamie, this book sensitively tackles issues around grief, terrorism, racism and bullying. We meet Jamie in the midst of his family falling apart after the traumatic death of his older sister Rose – her urn on the mantelpiece is the only constant in an otherwise unsettling life. His mother leaves, his father turns to alcohol, and Jamie and his sister Jasmine are left to fend for themselves. With surprising friendships and cunning plans, Jamie and Jas muddle through in the way that only children can.

**The Cat Mummy**

**By Jacqueline Wilson, illustrated by Nick Sharratt, 2002**

Verity's Mum died the day she was born but she rarely talks about her. Verity doesn't want to upset her Dad or Grandparents. This humorous but sensitive story mainly focuses on Verity's missing cat Mabel but reveals some of the misunderstandings and anxieties children can have about death. It also shows it can be good to be open, honest and to talk about difficult issues.

**The Secret C: Straight talking about cancer**

**By Julie A. Stokes OBE, illustrated by Peter Bailey, 2009**

This booklet is aimed at supporting parents or carers to explain to their child what cancer means and how it may affect their family and encourages open communication and questions about cancer within the family. Through pictures, captions and straightforward language, it explains how tumours are formed, what the various treatments are and how these may affect the person with cancer. It stresses the need to keep to family routines and, importantly, to still try and have fun. It is aimed at children aged 7 to 10 years and will work best when an adult is present to expand on the simple messages in the text.

**What on Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies?**

**By Trevor Romain, 2003**

This book for older children is a factual guide, answering questions such as 'why do people have to die?', 'is it okay to cry?' and 'what is a funeral/memorial service?' It is written in a straightforward way, with practical tips, advice and information about different faiths and beliefs. It describes the strong, confusing feelings you might have and suggests ways to feel better. He tells you it's okay to cry, talk about the death, grieve, and go on with your life.

**You Will Be Okay**

**By Julie Stokes, 2021**

The death of a parent, sibling or friend is one of the most traumatic experiences for a child or young person and it can be hard to know how to talk to them about it. In this honest, comforting and strength-building guide Julie Stokes, a clinical psychologist and founder of childhood bereavement charity Winston's Wish, provides readers with the tools they need to navigate this tough and turbulent time.

**BOOKS FOR AGE 13 – 16+ YEARS**

**A Fault in our Stars**

**By John Green, 2013**

This is a moving and funny book about a young teenage girl, Hazel, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer and attends a cancer support group where she meets Augustus. The couple embarks on a rollercoaster of emotions, including love, sadness and romance, while searching for the author of their favourite book.

**A Monster Calls**

**By Patrick Ness, 2015**

This moving fantasy novel is the story of a 13-year-old boy who is coping with the diagnosis of his mother's cancer. A book about stories and myths, about courage and loss and the fear of loss. Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window.

**Straight Talk about Death for Teenagers: How to Cope with Losing Someone You Love**

**By Earl A. Grollman, 1993**

This book was written after the author spoke to thousands of teenagers and found they often felt forgotten after someone has died. Written in short, clear sentences that are easy to read, it covers feelings, different types of death and the future. This book gives the reader many options of what can happen, how s/he may feel, giving advice and reassuring readers grief is normal.

**The Lost Boys' Appreciation Society**

**By Alan Gibbons, 2004**

Teenage life is difficult enough for Gary and John, but when their Mum dies in a car accident, things get steadily worse. John struggles to keep the peace as Gary goes off the rails, saying his new mates are now his family. With GCSE exams looming and his Dad going out on dates, things become unbearable for John. A gripping book exploring relationships and how different people react to life events.

**History is all you left me**

**By Adam Silvera, 2017**

Griffin has lost his first love in a drowning accident. Theo was his best friend, his ex-boyfriend and the one he believed he would end up with. Now, reeling from grief and worsening OCD, Griffin turns to an unexpected person for help. Theo's new boyfriend. But as their relationship becomes increasingly complicated, dangerous truths begin to surface. Griffin must make a choice: confront the past, or miss out on the future.

**The Five People You Meet In Heaven**

**By Mitch Albom, 2004**

This book follows the life and death of a ride mechanic named Eddie who is killed in an amusement park accident and sent to heaven, where he encounters five people who had a significant impact on him while he was alive.

**How to Carry What Can't be Fixed**

**By Megan Devine, 2021**

An illustrated journal for meeting grief with honesty and kindness—honouring loss, rather than packing it away.

**It's Ok That You're Not Ok**

**By Megan Devine, 2017**

Meeting grief and loss in a culture which doesn't understand. In It's OK That You're Not OK, Megan Devine offers a profound new approach to both the experience of grief and the way we try to help others who have endured tragedy. Having experienced grief from both sides-as both a therapist and as a woman who witnessed the accidental drowning of her beloved partner-Megan writes with deep insight about the unspoken truths of loss, love, and healing.

**OTHER HELPFUL BOOKS (NOT DIRECTLY ABOUT DEATH)**

There are a number of books that do not directly deal with death or bereavement but may help the reader face difficult feelings.

**Angry Arthur**

**By Hiawyn Oram, illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura, 2008**

It's time for bed but Arthur wants to stay up so he gets really angry. Every time someone tells him 'that's enough' his anger gets bigger and bigger and takes over the world until he wonders why he was so angry in the first place. A wonderful imaginative story that many children (and adults) will be able to relate to.

**No Matter What**

**By Debi Gliori, 2003**

A rhyming story with large, bright pictures about Small, a young fox who is feeling cross because no one loves him. Large, then reassures him that she'll love him no matter what. A fun and imaginative book that only briefly talks about death but would be a useful to help support a young child through difficult times.

**Nothing**

**By Mick Inkpen, 2006**

A 'little thing' has been stuck in the attic for so long, he has even forgotten its name. When the owners move house and leave him behind, he sets off on an adventure to discover who he really is. A lovely book about families and the feeling that you belong. It could be used in many situations, particularly with a child who is feeling unsettled.

[Something Else](#)

**By Kathryn Cave, illustrated by Chris Riddell, 1995**

Something Else doesn't belong and has no one to be friends with, until one day Nothing knocks at his door and although they seem very different, they get along and become friends. These unusual looking characters capture the feelings of young people in a sensitive and fun way. A lovely book that could reassure children who feel unsettled within their peer group.

[My Many Coloured Days](#)

**By Dr Seuss, 2001**

'My Many Coloured Days' is a book that can be used to help children begin to learn about emotions. The concept of this book is to teach children that there are no 'bad' emotions, that all feelings are ok and that we should welcome them.

[The Big Book of Blob Trees](#)

**By Pip Wilson, 2018**

The Big Book of Blob Trees features 70 different Blob trees that can be used as prompts to explore feelings. This unique collection of Blob trees with its range of different Blob characters is a fabulous way of opening up discussions about feelings and developing understanding of emotions, empathy and self-awareness.

There are also many books where death is not the main focus of the story but features bereavement or the main character has been bereaved. These include:

[A Little Princess](#)

**By Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2016**

[Bambi](#)

**By Felix Salten, 1988**

[Charlotte's Web](#)

**By E. B. White & illustrated by Garth Williams, 2014**

**Danny the Champion of the World**

**By Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake, 2016**

**Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**

**By J. K. Rowling, 1997**

**James and the Giant Peach**

**By Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake, 2016**

**Little Women**

**By Louisa May Alcott, 2018**

**Oliver Twist**

**By Charles Dickens, 1995**

**The Secret Garden**

**By Frances Hodgson Burnett, 2012**

**BOOKS FOR ADULTS SUPPORTING A BEREAVED CHILD**

**A Child's Grief: Supporting a child when someone in their family has died**

**By Julie Stokes, Diana Crossley, Katrina Alilovic & Di Stubbs, 2008**

A useful and informative introduction for any adult who is supporting a child through bereavement. Covering a variety of issues that may affect a child when a person close to them dies, both immediately and in the longer term, the booklet also offers practical activities to do together and a section on further reading and support.



**And When Did You Last See Your Father**

**By Blake Morrison, 2006**

The book tells of how Dr Morrison's life slowly slips away during the last few weeks of his life. Interspersed with this are the author's recollections of his father, who whilst being a difficult man at times, always remained a loving husband and father. The author is at all times open and honest – sometimes brutally so – and lays open his feelings for all to share. One of the strengths of the book is that whilst it is about the death of a loved one it never gets too mawkish or sentimental and remains at all times a good read.

**As Big As It Gets: Supporting a child when someone is seriously ill**

**By Winston's Wish**

This book offers practical guidance for families and professionals when someone is seriously ill and may die. It covers talking with children about what is happening and will happen in their family and offers an overview of some of the feelings and thoughts people may have. Practical guidance, ideas for activities and suggestions of helpful resources are offered alongside where to find support.

**Beyond the Rough Rock: Supporting a child who has been bereaved through suicide**

**By Winston's Wish**

Explaining to a child that someone has died by suicide is possibly one of the most difficult situations that a parent or carer might ever face. This booklet offers practical advice for families in the immediate days and weeks when suicide has been the cause of death. The booklet includes child-friendly activities for you to do as a family as you begin to make sense of what has happened and start to look at ways in which your family can learn to cope.

**Grief in Children: A Handbook for Adults**

**By Atle Dyregov, 2008**

This is a very practical and useful book written for adults to help them understand how children feel when someone important in their life dies. It covers areas such as children's grief reactions at different developmental levels, sex differences and different types of death. It makes many useful suggestions about how children can be helped to cope with their grief in an open, honest and positive way.

**Hope Beyond the Headlines: Supporting a child bereaved through murder or manslaughter**

**By Winston's Wish**

This booklet offers practical advice for families in the immediate days, weeks and months following a murder. It is written for both parents and professionals, giving them the confidence to involve children and young people in understanding and managing the particular difficulties and complexities that so often surround a death by murder or manslaughter. The booklet includes child-friendly activities to do with children or as a family to help them to make sense of what has happened and to begin to express their grief.

**Never Too Young To Grieve: Supporting children under 5 after the death of a parent**

**By Winston's Wish**

A key focus of early childhood is the relationships that children form with the important people in their lives — usually parents, carers and siblings. Bereavement during a child's early years interrupts the attachment that they have with that person. In the absence of strong memories of their own, it can be hard for a young child to remember the person who has died and to feel connected to them. This booklet is designed for parents, carers, childcare professionals and other adults supporting children up to the age of 5 who have experienced the death of a parent or carer. It offers information and ideas as well as some activities which we hope will benefit children and their families.

**Talking about Death: A Dialogue Between Parent and Child**

**By Earl A. Grollman, 1991**

This guide for parents recognises that many adults find it hard to honestly and openly explain death to children, especially when faced with their own grief. It includes quotes and examples from other parents and suggestions of what to say to a child as well as general advice.

**The Family Has Been Informed: Supporting grieving children and young people from military families**

**By Winston's Wish**

In this booklet we offer information that aims to be helpful to families and professionals who come into contact with children and young people from military families who have been bereaved. We also suggest practical ideas and describe the services that Winston's Wish can offer nationally.

**We All Grieve: Supporting bereaved children who have special educational needs and disabilities**

**By Winston's Wish**

We All Grieve looks at how children with SEND are affected by a bereavement, how those around them can support them and help to develop the child's understanding of death and loss. This book is designed for parents, carers, educational professionals and other adults supporting children and young adults with SEND who have experienced the death of someone close to them. It offers information, practical suggestions and ideas for activities as well as where to find other support.

**You Just Don't Understand: Supporting bereaved teenagers**

**By Winston's Wish**

The transition from childhood to adulthood can be a challenging process at the best of times. This booklet aims to help you understand what normal adolescent development is, and to recognise the additional problems teenagers may face if someone important dies during these years. This booklet is based on many years' experience of working with bereaved teenagers, families and professionals who support them and the information here will help you to consider how to respond to the individual needs of a bereaved teenager.

## Apps

We know in this day and age, smartphones are now a major aspect of our daily lives – especially for our children and young people. We wanted to provide you with a list of free apps relating to grief and mental well-being which you can signpost CYP towards. All of which can be downloaded on the App Store or Google Play.

1. **[Apart of Me \(Recommended for 12+\)](#)**

A multi-award-winning therapeutic game which was co-created by experts in child psychology and bereaved young people. The app translates bereavement counselling techniques into a magical 3D world.

2. **[Grief Works – Self-love & Care by Julia Samuels, founder patron of Child Bereavement UK \(Recommended for 12+\)](#)**

A complete 28-session compassionate course to help individuals to navigate and cope with their grief, including 30+ interactive tools for 24/7 support when it's needed most.

3. **[Untangle Grief Support \(Recommended for 17+\)](#)**

Untangle helps you through the practical and emotional steps after a loss. This is offered in the form of being matched with an online support group and the Untangle team on-hand for support and advice. They also share the ability to connect with bereavement specialists such as funeral directors and financial advisors as well as posting weekly articles.

4. **[Grief: Support for Young People – Child Bereavement UK \(Recommended for 11+\)](#)**

This app has been created by the professionals working at Child Bereavement UK and the bereaved young people they work with. They suggest that the app is for between 11–25-year-olds and it can also be used by friends, teachers, parents and professionals supported bereaved CYP. The app shares information about bereavement, grief, feelings and how CYP can help themselves on their grief journey.

5. **[Aloe Bud \(Recommended for 4+\)](#)**

Aloe Bud is the all-in-one self-care pocket companion. It brings gentle awareness to self-care activities by using encouraging push notifications for things such as hydrate, move, breathe, rest, fuel and so on. An app which encourages mental well-being when grief can make the simple tasks feel overwhelming.

6. **[Headspace: Meditation & Sleep \(Recommended for 4+\) \\*Not all areas of app are free](#)**

Headspace is a guide to mindfulness for everyday life. It offers guided meditations surrounding topics such as stress, anxiety, sleep, focus and mind-body health.

7. **[Smiling Mind \(Recommended for 4+\)](#)**

A free mindfulness meditation app developed by psychologists and educators to help individuals find balance in everyday life. They offer dedicated sessions for CYP between the ages of 3-19+.

8. **[Butterfly App \(Recommended 4+\)](#)**

The Butterfly App was created for bereaved young people with creative suggestions and the promotion of self-care following the loss of a loved one. The app offers 4 functions including advice on how to make a memory box, inspirational quotes, mood music, yoga and other useful resources.

## Grief Podcasts/Online Support

Many CYP express that listening to another individual's experiences of loss has been some of the most healing parts of their grief journey. Just the way CYP have varied learning styles, podcasts can be an alternative way for them to learn how to cope with their grief and feel less alone. Take a look at our list of recommended podcasts below – we suggest these would be for those post-primary age and above due to the unpredictability nature of topics shared on the podcasts. *All podcasts can be found on either Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts or Spotify.*

1. **Help 2 Make Sense- By Winston's Wish:** <https://help2makesense.org/podcast/> - Episodes created by the Winston's Wish Team and bereaved CYP.
2. **The Grief Gang – Amber Jefferies:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-grief-gang/id1489821860> - Created by Amber Jefferies following the sudden death of her Mother at age 19 back in 2016. Amber hosts special guests to share their personal stories as a way to normalise grief as a topic of conversation.
3. **Grief Works – Julia Samuel:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/grief-works/id1218890840> - Hosted by Julia Samuel – a grief psychotherapist with over twenty five years' experience of working with the bereaved – we hear stories from those who have experienced great love and loss – and survived.
4. **Grief Cast – Cariad Lloyd:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/griefcast/id1178572854> - A weekly interview podcast where media personalities share stories about loved ones they've lost.
5. **On The Marie Curie Couch – Marie Curie UK:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/on-the-marie-curie-couch/id1485563081> - Listen in as a host of well-known guests open up and share their experiences of grief and death in a therapeutic conversation with Marie Curie bereavement expert, Jason Davidson.
6. **Dead Parent Club – Kathryn Hooker and Emma Jones:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/dead-parent-club/id1436488333> - The Dead Parent Club is a community of like-minded young adults all grieving a similar loss. Each week, Kat and Emma speak candidly about their own grief journeys and are joined by guests and experts with the aim to help you as you navigate this new normal.
7. **Spoken Grief – Shuma Rouf:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/spoken-grief/id1552751549> - Spoken Grief is here to unapologetically talk about grief. Your host, Shuma Rouf lost her mum in 2015. She is here to share her experience and stories from people of all walks of life.
8. **Living With Loss – Joe Bellman:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/living-with-loss/id1541569000> - Sat at the comfort of his kitchen table, Joe Bellman reflects candidly upon his own journey through grief and loss. Joe invites his guests to take part in a conversation that is difficult: to share their own stories and experiences – uncensored.

9. **What's Your Grief? – Eleanor Haley and Litsa Williams:**  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/whats-your-grief-podcast-grief-support-for-those-who/id946757971> - In this podcast series Eleanor Haley and Litsa Williams, the two mental health professionals behind the grief website What's Your Grief, seek to leave no stone unturned in demystifying the complicated and sometimes crazy experience of living life after loss.
10. **Good Mourning Podcast – Sally Douglas and Imogen Carn:**  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/good-mourning/id1529978129> - Hosted by Sal and Im, Good Mourning is the support-group-in-a-podcast that is on a mission to normalise talking about grief, through compassionate conversations with honesty and humour.
11. **The Student Grief Network (Instagram account and YouTube channel):** A healing and inspiring space for university students experiencing grief. They have their own YouTube channel and free webinars to help those coping with grief whilst in higher education.
12. **Good Grief UK (Instagram account):** Online grief community membership and educational resources. They also offer free 'holding spaces' as online events to help CYP remember their loved ones.



## Useful Links

We want to share with you some useful links which we hope you share with bereaved CYP, and which can support you in your role caring for them.

1. **Our Cruse Bereavement Support website:** <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>
2. **Cruse Bereavement Support - information on supporting CYP:** <https://www.cruse.org.uk/understanding-grief/grief-experiences/children-young-people/>
3. **Cruse Bereavement Support – Information on training courses:** <https://www.cruse.org.uk/organisations/>
4. **Cruse Bereavement Support – Information on supporting bereaved CYP in educational settings:** <https://www.cruse.org.uk/organisations/schools/>
5. **Cruse Bereavement Support – Referral FAQs:** <https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-support/referring-cruse-faqs/>
6. **Hope Again – Our Youth website of Cruse Bereavement Support:** We offer support, advice and a type of signposting service solely online to bereaved children and young people, usually between the ages of 11-25 years old. We also offer an emailing service for bereaved young people to contact us, they will receive a reply from another bereaved young person. Hope Again was created by bereaved young people, for bereaved young people: <https://www.hopeagain.org.uk/>
7. **Hope Again – resources which can be printed and used to support bereaved CYP:** <https://www.hopeagain.org.uk/-resources>
8. **Hope Again – Somewhere For Us Project NI (2021-2024):** Project information and Youth Advisory Group application form here - <https://www.hopeagain.org.uk/somewhere-for-us-project>
9. **The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People : A New and Better Normal – Children and Young People’s Experiences of then Covid-19 Pandemic (Main Report, August 2021) -** <https://www.niccy.org/about-us/our-current-work/covid-19-niccys-work/>
10. **Growing Around Grief Model – Dr Lois Tonkin:** BBC iPlayer - BBC Stories: Like Minds on BBC iPlayer | Facebook, [Growing-Around-Grief-Version-B.pdf \(winstonswish.org\)](#)
11. **The Ball and The Box Model – Lauren Herschel: Why grief is like a ball in a box (hospiscare.co.uk),** <https://www.hopefulwarrior.com/blog/2020/2/26/unpacking-grief-the-ball-amp-box-analogy>
12. **The Dual Process Model – Stroebe and Schut: The Dual Process Model - Funeral Guide**





## Cruse Bereavement Support have 7 branches throughout NI:

Belfast Branch:028 9043 4600

Armagh and Dungannon Branch:028 8778 4004

Newry and Mourne Branch:028 3025 2322

North Down and Ards Branch:028 9127 2444

Foyle Branch:028 7126 2941

Northern Branch:028 2766 6686

Omagh and Fermanagh Branch:028 8224 4414



If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us:

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### Ashleigh Maynard – Hope Again, Youth Consultant



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[www.hopeagain.org.uk](http://www.hopeagain.org.uk)



We help people through one of the most painful times in life  
– with bereavement support, information and campaigning.

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