



Professional Development

Professions of many disciplines and a variety of settings encounter grieving children. Jeff's Place provides trainings for professionals who are interested in developing their skills for working with children, adolescents, and their families. These trainings are periodically scheduled by Jeff's Place or can be provided to professional groups and organizations on request. Trainings can be conducted in person or virtually, and are aimed at therapists, teachers, nurses, and other professionals caring for young people.

- **Understanding and supporting grieving children and adolescents:** Drawing on current research, this training provides a developmental lens to understanding children and adolescents' experience of death, loss and grief, along with tools for providing support at different ages.
- **Supporting children after traumatic or unexpected death:** Though elements of the grief process are common across losses, regardless of type and circumstances, there are additional considerations when a death is violent, sudden, or there is a perceived element of choice or intent. This workshop builds on the basics of understanding grief and loss in children and adolescents when they are simultaneously coping with bereavement and trauma.
- **Sibling grief:** Sibling relationships play a unique role in the lives of children and adolescents. Grief during a terminal illness or following the death of a sibling has unique aspects. This workshop explores these unique aspects of sibling grief and support needs.
- **Disenfranchised grief:** Research shows that good social supports are a primary factor in positive grief outcomes. However, there are times when grief goes unrecognized or unsupported for an array of reasons, including shame related to cause of death, or secrecy surrounding relationships. This training focuses on understanding, identifying and responding to disenfranchised grief.
- **Death after overdose and suicide:** Grief following deaths that are stigmatized, or perceived as having been a choice, frequently pose additional feelings and challenges for the bereaved. This training examines shame, guilt, anger and other common responses as well as intervention strategies for supporting the bereaved.
- **Parenting following the death of a spouse/partner:** Caring for one's bereaved children while grieving the death of a spouse or partner is particularly challenging, and bereaved parents frequently look to other adults in their children's lives for support and guidance. This training is aimed at professionals who have contact with children and families, e.g., teachers, therapists, health care providers, and provides an overview of children's grief, a framework for understanding behavior as communication, and practical strategies for support.