**DEVELOPMENTAL AGES AND GRIEF REACTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>THINK</th>
<th>FEEL</th>
<th>DO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3 - 5 years (preschool) | *death is temporary and reversible  
*finality of death is not evident  
*death mixed up with trips, sleep  
*may wonder what deceased is doing | *Sad  
*Anxious  
*Withdrawn  
*Confused about changes  
*Angry  
*Scared  
*Cranky (feelings acted out in play) | *Cry  
*Fight  
*Are interested in dead things  
*Act as if death never happened |
| 6 - 9 years      | *about the finality of death  
*about the biological processes of death  
*death is related to mutilation  
*a spirit gets you when you die  
*about who will care for them if a parent dies  
*their actions and words caused the death | *Sad  
*Anxious  
*Withdrawn  
*Confused about changes  
*Angry  
*Scared  
*Cranky (feelings acted out in play) | *Behave aggressively  
*Behave withdrawn  
*Experience nightmares  
*Act as if death never happened  
*Lack concentration  
*Have a decline in grades |
| 9 - 12 years     | *about and understand the finality of death  
*death is hard to talk about  
*that death may happen again and feel anxious  
*about death with jocularity  
*about what will happen if their parent(s) die  
*their actions and words caused the death | *Vulnerable  
*Anxious  
*Scared  
*Lonely  
*Confused  
*Angry  
*Sad  
*Abandoned  
*Guilty  
*Fearful  
*worried  
*isolated | *Behave aggressively  
*Behave withdrawn  
*Talk about physical aspects of death  
*Act like it never happened, not show feelings  
*Experience nightmares  
*Lack concentration  
*Have a decline in grades |
| 12 years and up  | *about and understand the finality of death  
*if they show their feelings they will be weak  
*they need to be in control of their feelings  
*about death with jocularity  
*only about life before or after death  
*their actions and words caused the death | *Vulnerable  
*Anxious  
*Scared  
*Lonely  
*Confused  
*Angry  
*Sad  
*Abandoned  
*Guilty  
*Fearful  
*worried  
*isolated | *Behave impulsively  
*Argue, scream, fight  
*Allow themselves to be in dangerous situations  
*Grieve for what might have been  
*Experience nightmares  
*Act like it never happened  
*Lack concentration  
*Have a decline in grades |