

APPENDIX B
CHILDREN’S VIEW OF DEATH

Developmental Ages and Possible Reactions to Death

Age	Think	Feel	Do
3-5 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death is temporary and reversible • Finality of death is not evident • Death mixed with trips, sleep • May wonder what deceased is doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sad • Anxious • Withdrawn • Confused about changes • Angry • Scared • Cranky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cry • Fight • Interested in dead things • Act as if death never happened
6-9 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About the finality of death • About the biological process 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sad • Anxious • Withdrawn • Confused about changes • Angry • Scared • Cranky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behave aggressively • Behave withdrawn • Experience nightmares • Act as if death never happened • Lack of concentration • Have a decline in grades
9-12 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About and understand the finality of death • Death is hard to talk about • That death may happen if their parent(s) die • Their actions and words caused the death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable • Anxious • Scared • Lonely • Confused • Angry • Sad • Abandoned • Guilty • Fearful • Worried • Isolated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behave aggressively • Behave withdrawn • Talk about physical aspects of death • Act like it never happened, not show feelings • Experience nightmares • Lack of concentration • Have a decline in grades
12 Years and Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 jocularly (joking) • Only about life before or after death • Their actions and words caused the death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable • Anxious • Scared • Lonely • Confused • Angry • Sad • Abandoned • Guilty • Fearful • Worried • Isolated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behave impulsively • Argue, scream, or fight • Allow themselves to be in dangerous situations • Grieve for what might have been • Experience nightmares • Act like it never happened • Lack of concentration • Have a decline in grades