

Resources for Talking with Children about a Tragedy

A couple of two–page lists of suggestions you can replicate and share.

http://leaderresources.org/sites/default/files/TALKING_WITH_CHILDREN_ABOUT_TRAGEDY.pdf

http://www.nasponline.org/resources/crisis_safety/talkingviolence.pdf

And several suggestions from the Episcopal Relief and Development Center

<http://www.er-d.org/Children/>

Internet Resources (thanks to The Rev. Pamela Mott and Sharon Pearson for suggestions)

The Family Pledge of Non-Violence - <http://www.nccusa.org/pdfs/FamilyPledge.pdf>

Talking to Kids About School Violence –

http://www.aboutourkids.org/families/helping_kids_cope?CSRT=4256444790913290452

from the Child Study Center at New York University

Talking with kids about the News – ten tips on how to watch television with your children and talk about the events they have seen involving violence in the world.

<http://www.talkingwithkids.org/television/twk-news.html>

PBS Parents Guide to Talking with Kids about the News – learn how to answering children’s challenging questions by seeing the world through their eyes:

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/news>

When Someone Dies – <http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/emotion/somedie.html>

Being Afraid <http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/emotion/afraid.html> a site designed for children from the The Nemours Foundation Center for Children’s Health Media:

Parenting for Tolerance <http://www.tolerance.org/parents/index.jsp> offers resources and ideas for parents and teachers to instill a sense of tolerance and justice in children and youth

<http://infocenter.nimh.nih.gov/pdf/helping-children-and-adolescents-cope-with-violence-and-disasters-what-parents-can-do.pdf> from the US Department of Health and Human Services

Helping Children Cope with Violence –

http://naeyc.org/newsroom/Resources_on_coping_with_disasters#Talking_to_children

from the National Association for the Education of Young Children

Crisis Communication Guide & Toolkit – <http://www.nea.org/crisis/index.html> to help communities face a crisis and move toward hope, healing and renewal

<http://www.healthychildren.org/English/news/Pages/AAP-Offers-Resources-to-Help-Parents,-Children-and-Others-Cope-in-the-Aftermath-of-School-Shootings>.

American Psychological Association: <http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/aftermath.aspx>

Eleven Tips for Responding to Children's Fears and Concerns Following a Disaster:
<http://www.gbod.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=nhLRJ2PMKsG&b=7996325&ct=9181577¬oc=1>

A great hymn for use after a tragedy involving children:

God, We Have Heard It (tune: Ah, Holy Jesus)

(first verse below- ask for permission or use the CWS site if you support CWS)

God, we have heard it, sounding in the silence:
News of the children lost to this world's violence.
Children of promise! Then without a warning,
Loved ones are mourning.

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http://www.carolynshymns.com/god_we_have_heard_it.html OR

http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=resource_worship_hymns_prayer_for_our_children

Books for Talking with Children Following Tragic Events

(thanks to Sharon Pearson)

Davis, Katie. ***Scared Stiff*** (Harcourt, 2000). A girl learns to cope with everyday fears. This book is not about "violence/tolerance" per se, but rather one of the resulting emotions. Ages 4-up.

Demi. ***Gandhi*** (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2001). An inspiring picture book about the tireless crusader for peace through nonviolence. Ages 7-10.

Harris, Robie. ***Goodbye Mousie*** (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2001). The story of a little boy who wakes up to discover that his pet mouse has died. After expressing anger and disbelief, the boy learns that sadness and memories are part of saying goodbye. Ages 4-8.

Holmes, Margaret M. ***A Terrible Thing Happened*** (Magination Press, 2000). A bibliotherapist style look at the symptoms that can plague children who've witnessed something traumatic and how such children might work through/communicate about them. A springboard for discussion. Ages 4-up.

Howe, James, editor. ***The Color of Absence: 12 Stories about Loss and Hope*** (Atheneum, 2001). A collection of short stories for teens. Contributors include Avi, C. B. Christiansen, James Howe, Angela Johnson, Annette Curtis Klause, Chris Lynch, Norma Fox Mazer, Walter Dean Myers, Naomi Shihab Nye, Michael J. Rosen, Roderick Townley, Virginia Euwer Wolff, and Jacqueline Woodson. Ages 12-up.

Viorst, Judith. ***The Tenth Good Thing About Barney*** (Atheneum, 1999). A young boy copes with the death of his cat, Barney. Ages 4-8.