

Quick Quiz: Supporting Grieving Children Over Time

Most K-12 students will experience the death of a loved one before they complete high school. School professionals can play an essential role in providing support that helps children make sense of these experiences and stay productive in their school and personal lives.

How much do you know about ways to provide support to grieving children over time? Take this quiz and find out. Then check out the website of the [Coalition to Support Grieving Students](http://grievingstudents.scholastic.com/) [http://grievingstudents.scholastic.com/] for self-paced modules to learn more.

Quiz: Support Over Time

1. Most children will adjust to a major loss such as the death of a family member or close friend after about a year.	T	F
2. School professionals who are not personally affected by the death in a deep way are often ideal sources of support.	T	F
3. School personnel can best offer support to grieving children when they work as a team to meet students' needs.	T	F
4. When teachers talk about death in the classroom as part of regular coursework, it helps all students learn more about how to give and receive support.	T	T
5. Teachers can help grieving students stay on track academically by making it clear they're expected to complete their assignments fully and on time, just as their classmates do.	T	F
6. When grieving children experience support and understanding from their teachers, they may find it easier to turn to adult family members for support as well.	T	F
7. If a grieving student reveals family issues to a teacher, such as a parent struggling with depression, the teacher should hold that information in confidence to help build greater trust.	T	F
8. The second year after a death is usually much easier on children than the first.	T	F
9. Children who lose a parent are often reminded of the loss throughout their lives at times of normal transition, such as graduations, marriage or having children of their own.	T	F
10. It can be helpful when teachers make a special effort to contact grieving students and offer support for special events, such as holidays, birthday or other celebrations.	T	F

Answers:

1. *False.* Adjusting to a major loss is a process that lasts a lifetime.
2. *True.* School professionals are concerned, accessible, competent and more detached from the raw emotions being experienced by the child.
3. *True.* Team members can take on different tasks to offer support to children and their families and share information about how children are doing.
4. *True.* Teachers can model how to discuss grief and express concern and caring. Without this modeling, many children are unsure about what to say or do.
5. *False.* It is common for grieving children to have trouble concentrating and experience a drop in academic performance for some time after the death. Teachers can make appropriate adjustments to help them stay on course academically.
6. *True.* The modeling offered by teachers helps children better understand how to speak with other adults.
7. *False.* If students reveal family issues, they are looking for help solving these problems. Teachers can arrange appropriate referrals.
8. *False.* The second year after a death often seems more challenging than the first.
9. *True.* In many ways, children never get over a significant loss. It is a lifelong experience.
10. *True.* Children experience grief differently over time. Special events often bring up deep feelings about the loss.

The Coalition to Support Grieving Students was convened by the New York Life Foundation, a pioneering advocate for the cause of childhood bereavement, and the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement, which is led by pediatrician and childhood bereavement expert David J. Schonfeld, M.D. The Coalition has worked with Scholastic Inc., a long-standing supporter of teachers and kids, to create grievingstudents.org, a groundbreaking, practitioner-oriented website designed to provide educators with the information, insights, and practical advice they need to better understand and meet the needs of the millions of grieving kids in America's classrooms.