

RESOURCES TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT DEATH

These resources can be helpful to families.
If possible, share this list with adults before Day 4 of VBS.

VIDEOS

- The website Sesame Street in Communities offers a series of videos and other resources to help children understand grief and loss: sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/grief/.
- In “Blue Fish Is Dead,” episode 320 of the PBS program *Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood*, Mom and Dad Tiger help Daniel explore his sadness after his favorite goldfish dies: www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwjaeavuWts.

BOOKS

- In Warren Hanson’s classic children’s book *The Next Place* (Waldman House Press, 2002), gentle verse and exquisite color illustrations reveal a safe and welcome destination free from earthly hurts and filled with wonder and peace. It offers a comforting message of hope and of compassion for the bereaved.
- In Patrice Karst’s relatable and reassuring *The Invisible String* (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2018), a mother tells her two children that they’re all connected by an invisible string. “That’s impossible!” the children insist, but still they want to know more: “What kind of string?” The answer is a simple truth that binds us all: a string made of love.
- In Lisa Tawn Bergren’s *God Gave Us Heaven* (Waterbrook, 2008), Little Cub wonders aloud, “What is heaven like?” as the sun rises on her snow-covered world. With tender words, her papa describes a wonderful place, free of sadness and tears, where God warmly welcomes his loved ones after their life on earth is over.

OTHER RESOURCES

- Along with the videos above, Sesame Street in Communities offers activities and articles for talking to kids about death and grief: sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/grief/.
- NPR’s “Life Kit” podcast has a series called “Parenting: Difficult Conversations” that includes an episode on talking to children about death: www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716702066/death-talking-with-kids-about-the-end.

