

## Developmental Ages and Possible Reactions to Death

AGE	THINK	FEEL	DO
3-5 years (preschool)	<p>Death is temporary and reversible</p> <p>Finality of death is not evident</p> <p>Death mixed up with trips, sleep</p> <p>May wonder what deceased is doing</p>	<p>Sad</p> <p>Anxious</p> <p>Withdrawn</p> <p>Confused about changes</p> <p>Angry</p> <p>Scared</p> <p>Cranky (feelings are acted out in play)</p>	<p>Cry</p> <p>Fight</p> <p>Are interested in dead things</p> <p>Act as if death never happened</p>
6-9 years	<p>About the finality of death</p> <p>About the biological process of death</p> <p>Death is related to mutilation</p> <p>A spirit gets you when you die</p> <p>About who will care for them if a parent dies</p> <p>Their actions and words caused the death</p>	<p>Sad</p> <p>Anxious</p> <p>Withdrawn</p> <p>Confused about the changes</p> <p>Angry</p> <p>Scared</p> <p>Cranky (feelings are acted out in play)</p>	<p>Behave aggressively</p> <p>Behave withdrawn</p> <p>Experience nightmares</p> <p>Act as if death never happened</p> <p>Lack concentration</p> <p>Have a decline in grades</p>
9-12 years	<p>About and understand the finality of death</p> <p>Death is hard to talk about</p> <p>That death may happen again, and feel anxious</p> <p>About death with jocularly</p> <p>About what will happen if their parent(s) die</p> <p>Their actions and words caused the death</p>	<p>Vulnerable</p> <p>Anxious</p> <p>Scared</p> <p>Lonely</p> <p>Confused</p> <p>Angry</p> <p>Sad</p> <p>Abandoned</p> <p>Guilty</p> <p>Fearful</p> <p>Worried</p> <p>Isolated</p>	<p>Behave aggressively</p> <p>Behave withdrawn</p> <p>Talk about physical aspects of death</p> <p>Act like it never happened, not show feelings</p> <p>Experience nightmares</p> <p>Lack concentration</p> <p>Have a decline in grades</p>

<p>12 years and up (teenagers)</p>	<p>About and understand the finality of death</p> <p>If they show their feelings they will be weak</p> <p>They need to be in control of their feelings</p> <p>About death with jocularly</p> <p>Only about life before or after death</p> <p>Their actions and words caused the death</p>	<p>Vulnerable</p> <p>Anxious</p> <p>Scared</p> <p>Lonely</p> <p>Confused</p> <p>Angry</p> <p>Sad</p> <p>Abandoned</p> <p>Guilty</p> <p>Fearful</p> <p>Worried</p> <p>Isolated</p>	<p>Behave impulsively</p> <p>Argue, scream, fight</p> <p>Allow themselves to be in dangerous situations</p> <p>Grieve for what might have been</p> <p>Experience nightmares</p> <p>Act like it never happened</p> <p>Lack concentration</p> <p>Have a decline in grades</p>
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### Resources Are Available

Additional information, self-help tools and other resources are available online at [www.MagellanHealth.com](http://www.MagellanHealth.com). Or call us for more information, help and support. Counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide confidential assistance at no cost to you.