

Coping with the Loss of Our Child – A Comprehensive Guide for Families.

Joanne DiNatale RN, CPON
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Joanne_J.Dinatale@lvhn.org

Vanessa Gramm-Mackey CCLS

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Coping with the Loss of a Child

A Comprehensive Guide for Families

Pediatric Loss Committee
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Pediatric Loss Committee

- Established to meet the needs of families who are coping with the loss of a child
- Distributed a folder containing a compilation of brochures on grief and loss
- Resulted in a plethora of information that was often overwhelming to families
- Challenged to develop a single, comprehensive resource guide that is “user-friendly”



Coping with the Loss of Your Child

- Written information assists family in the time immediately following the death including:
 - Arranging your child's funeral
 - FAQ's about children, death and funerals
 - Children's FAQ's about death and funerals
- DVD contains additional information essential to processing the loss of a child:
 - Personal stories of coping and loss from bereaved families and staff
 - What is grief?
 - Living with the loss of your child
 - Step-parent and grandparent grief
 - Services beyond the hospital

Lessons Learned

- Recognize that families in crisis are often unable to process much of the information given to them
- Involve bereaved families in the development of a comprehensive grief resource guide



Future Steps

- Translate resource guide and DVD into Spanish
- Create additional resource guides:
 - Staff education to assist a child's family during the final stages of life
 - “Helping Children Cope with the Loss of a Loved One”



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