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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”

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”

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