



7.3 Bereavement

Policy Statement

At Ladybird Forest Pre-School we recognise that children and their families may experience grief and loss of family members, close friends or their family pets whilst with us in the Pre-School. We also recognise that there may also be rare occasions when the Pre-School team is affected by a death of a child or member of staff. We understand that bereavement is not only difficult for adults, but it may also be a confusing time for young children, especially if they have little or no understanding of why people around them are upset and why a particular person/pet is no longer around.

Procedures

We aim to support both the child and their family and will adapt the following procedure to suit their individual needs and family preferences:

- We ask that if there is a loss of a family member, close friend or family pet, that the parents inform the Pre-School as soon as they feel able to. This will enable us to support both the child and the family wherever we can and helps us to understand any potential changes in behaviour of a child who may be grieving themselves.
- The key person and/or the Pre-School Manager/Deputy will talk with the family to ascertain what support is needed or wanted from the Pre-School. This may be an informal discussion or a meeting away from the child to help calm a potentially upsetting situation.
- The child may need extra support or one-to-one care during this difficult time. We will adapt our staffing arrangements, so the child is fully supported by the most appropriate member of staff on duty, where possible the child's key person.
- We will be as flexible as possible to adapt the sessions the child and family may need during this time.



Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Relevant Ladybird policies:

- 1.2 Safeguarding Children and Child Protection
- 3.2 Accidents and First Aid
- 10.6 Data Protection and Confidentiality

Key contact details:

Organisation	Contact details
The Samaritans	www.samaritans.co.uk 08457 909090
Priory	www.priorygroup.com 08452 PRIORY (08452 774679)
Child Bereavement UK	www.childbereavementuk.org
Cruse Bereavement Care	www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk helpline@cruse.org.uk 0844 477 9400
British Association of Counselling	www.bacp.co.uk 01788 578328
SANDS	www.uk-sands.org

This policy was reviewed by	Amanda Sanders - Pre-School Manager Victoria Grimes - Admin Manager Rebecca McGough - Chair
Date of review	13 th January 2024
Date of next review	13 th January 2025



Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Chair's signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Anthony", is written in the right-hand box of the signature line.