



FACING END OF LIFE BIBLIOGRAPHY

For Parents Anticipating the Death of Their Child



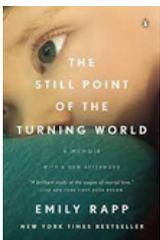
Follow the Child by Sacha Langton-Gilks

In this book, the author's goal is to reassure and empower parents whose child is facing death. She speaks about the hard topics and realities of planning for the best end-of-life care.



Meaningful Moments: Ritual and Reflection When a Child Dies by Rana Limbo and Kathie Kobler

A book with beautiful illustrations and stories of ways families and caregivers can create memories and meaning before and after the death of a child.



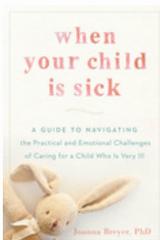
The Still Point of the Turning World by Emily Rapp

This author and mother of a young boy takes the reader into the depths of her experience, namely grief. She describes the moments of joy and excruciating sorrow. She also relates her own feelings, questions, and thoughts to the experiences of other artists and writers.



This Little While by Joy and Dr. S.M. Johnson

This booklet is for parents experiencing the death of a young infant. There are suggestions for memory-making in the hospital and afterward.



When Your Child is Sick by Joanna Breyer

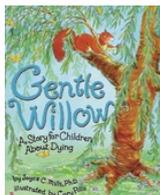
This is a comprehensive look at how to navigate the practical and emotional challenge of caring for a seriously ill child — everything from coping tips during difficult therapies to sibling support. It is written by a psychologist with extensive experience caring for families. A thorough resource list is included.

Life Cycle Books to Read to Children Before Death

online resource

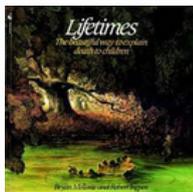
Not If But When (notifbutwhen.org)

Website designed to encourage and support sharing good books and stories about death and loss with children and teens throughout their lives



Gentle Willow by Joyce C. Mills

This is a tale about a tree that becomes diseased and how his forest friends help him and remember him after he is gone. This book is written for children with life-threatening illnesses and provides advice for parents as well.



Lifetimes: The Beautiful Way to Explain Death to Children by Bryan Mellonie and Robert Ingpen

This children's book illustrates that there are beginnings and ends for all living things: plants, animals, and people.



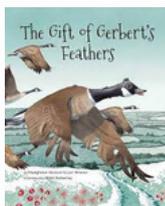
My Love Will Follow You There by Carla Garret

This book is written for parents to read to their children who are facing death. The images and words are meant to comfort and bring peace as well as provide a clear description of heaven. Read a blog post about the author's son and inspiration for the book [HERE](#).



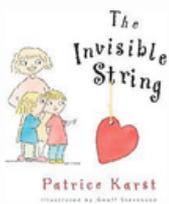
Our Baby is Loved by Abigail Gellene-Beaudoin

This story is designed for children whose parents or loved ones are expecting a baby with a life-threatening medical diagnosis. It can be tailored to fit each family's unique situation and includes guidance on sharing medical information in a developmentally appropriate manner.



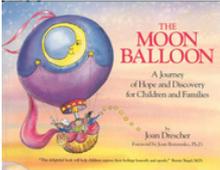
The Gift of Gerbert's Feathers by Meaghann Weaver and Lori Weiner

This is a story about a joyful and special gosling who is well-loved by friends and family. Over time he becomes ill and frail. Days before his "final migration" he imparts special words and a feather to each of his loved ones.



The Invisible String by Patrice Karst

Specifically written to address children's fear of being apart from the ones they love, *The Invisible String* delivers a particularly compelling message that though we may be separated from the ones we care for, whether through anger, distance, or even death, love is the unending connection that binds us all. A toughing story for all ages. Read a review [HERE](#).



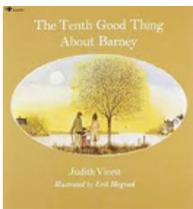
The Moon Balloon by Joan Drescher

The artist provides an interactive opportunity for children to express feelings with color and words. This book is filled with illustrations of hot air balloons labeled in a way that invites children to explore their thoughts and emotions.



The Next Place by Warren Hanson

This book has beautiful illustrations and soothing words to describe how one's spirit or soul will be free, joyful, and joined with those loved ones in the next place it goes.



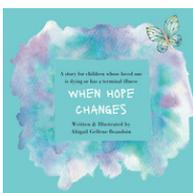
The Tenth Good Thing About Barney by Judith Viorst

This is a simple story about a well loved cat who dies. It includes a brief family discussion about heaven, burial, and memories.



Water Bugs and Dragonflies: Explaining Death to Young Children by Doris Stickney

This book uses the analogy of a water bug's short life under water to represent a human's time on earth, and their emergence as dragonflies into the bright sunlit world above the water as a human's life after death. It is designed to provide adults with the opportunity to talk about death as being part of the life cycle, which can be a reassuring way of explaining death to children.



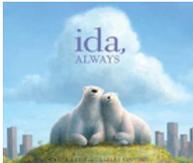
When Hope Changes by Abigail Gellene-Beaudoin

This story is for children whose loved one is dying or facing a terminal illness and can be customized to fit each family's unique situation. It includes guidance on sharing medical information in a developmentally appropriate way and provides support for the entire family during this difficult time.



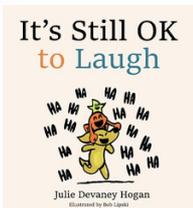
When the Wind Stops by Charlotte Zolotow

This is a beautifully written and illustrated book that uses the changed of the seasons to talk about the cycle of life.



ida, ALWAYS by Caren Levis

This children's book is about a deep friendship between two polar bears and follows their journey when one becomes ill and eventually dies. It touches on feelings during the journey and continued connection even after death.



It's Still OK to Laugh by Julie Devaney Hogan

It's Still Ok to Laugh is a comforting picture book for children experiencing grief or loss. Through warm language and tender illustrations, this story helps kids understand that it is okay to cry, and it is also okay to laugh and feel joy again. Feelings can mix together, and that does not mean we loved any less.