

CHILDREN
AGED
14-17



PARENTING THROUGH ANNIVERSARIES



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The death of a loved one and the grief that follows can be hard topics to discuss with kids. We understand that as a parent or carer, you just want to be there for your kids, and know that they're expressing their grief in healthy ways.

This resource and our Grief Resource Hub are here to help you and your kids discuss grief and death in an age-appropriate way.

Please know that we are here to support you and your family – with Camps, resources like this one, and a community of people who understand what you're going through.

To get further support, please call us on 1300 602 465. Or click any of the "ENQUIRE NOW" buttons on our website to fill out a quick questionnaire, which we'll use to match you with the right programs and support.

PARENTING THROUGH THE 'FIRSTS' AFTER THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

Certain dates, such as the anniversary of the loss, the bereaved loved one's birthday, or even holidays your teen(s) are used to sharing with their lost loved one may heighten your grief, as they are reminders of your loved one's death. Here are some steps to help your teen cope with reminders of the loss.

1. PREPARE YOURSELF

Although it is difficult to tell how your teen(s) will feel on an anniversary, birthday, or holiday since everyone grieves differently, it's best to prepare in case they will need extra support and care. Normalize the fact that such dates may evoke powerful memories of the feelings and events surrounding the loved one's death and it is important to anticipate how to cope with them.

2. MAKE PLANS AND CONNECT

Often scheduling social activities and making plans with loved ones during this potentially lonely time will provide support for your teen(s) and remind them they are not alone in their grief. This could take the form of a formal remembrance ceremony or more casual event. You may also invite your teen(s) to write a private note or letter to their loved one to connect on a more personal level.



3. REFLECT AND REMINISCE

Encourage your teen(s) to share fond memories of their lost loved one and the good times you all spent together. They may want to start a memory book or write these memories down somewhere they can refer back to in times when the grief becomes difficult.

4. START A NEW TRADITION

You may want to mark this day with a new tradition that adds to or provides new meaning to the occasion. It could be cooking your loved one's favourite meal, playing one of his or her favourite songs, lighting a candle to symbolise his or her presence, or giving to a cause that was important to the deceased.

5. ALLOW YOUR CHILD(REN) TO FEEL

Dates such as anniversaries, birthdays, and holidays may be particularly bittersweet, as you and your teen(s) experience the painful reminders of the loss, the difficult memories of the death, and the joyful times you shared with your loved one. Ensure there is room in the day for them and yourself to take a break and make space to process these conflicting emotions. Offer to give them one-on-one time to discuss what they are feeling and what they need in those moments.

If you'd like to learn more about Feel the Magic or register your interest for one of our Camps, please don't hesitate to contact us. Just click any of the **"ENQUIRE NOW"** buttons on our website or give us a call on **1300 602 465**.

We have a range of Camps across Australia, both virtual and face-to-face. To find out more about our Camps, click [HERE](#).



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