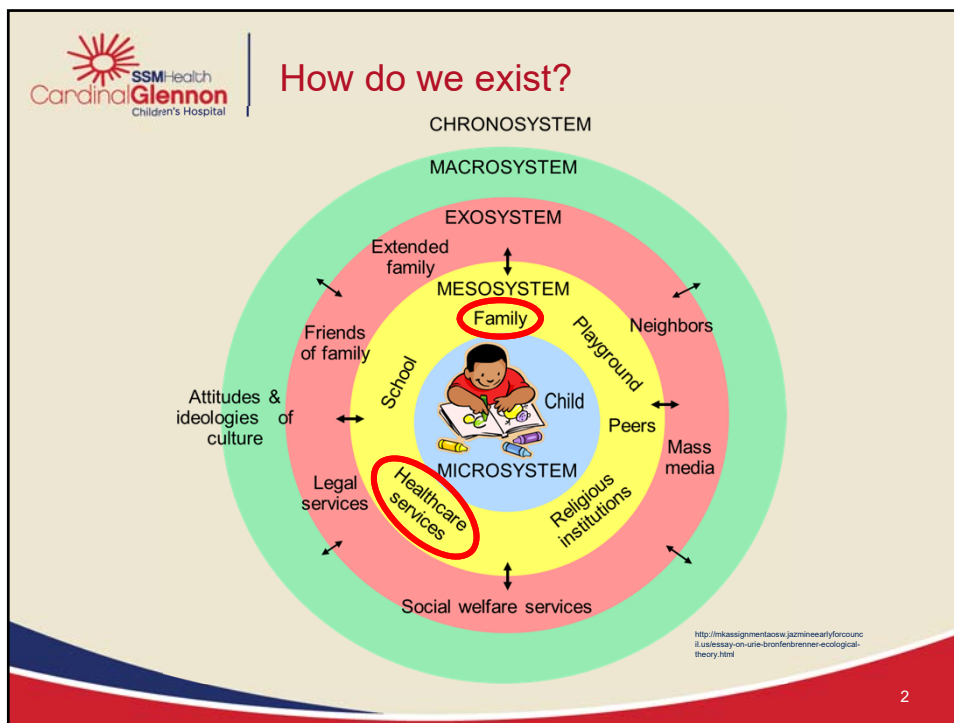


A Special Bond

Supporting Siblings of Seriously Ill Children

Cassie McAllister, M.Ed., CCLS, CIMI

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Zoom in on the family

- Delicate balance
 - Bowen's theory
 - Often used in family therapy for alcoholism, drug addiction etc.
- Roles: nurturer, leader, creative, quiet, peacemaker, competitive
- Someone's new role is "the sick one"
- How does that change other's role?

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Parents

1. Provider
2. Protector
3. Nurturer
4. Spouse/co-parent
5. Chef
6. Taxi driver
7. Fixer of all things
8. Tutor
9. Playmate
10. Rule enforcer
11. Advocate
12. Advocate in a new way
13. Case manager
14. Direct provider of medical care

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Siblings

1. Play mate
2. Friend
3. Competitor
4. Care taker
5. Advocate

Because the family dynamic changed and the parent role changed they then continue their role as sibling with new stressors

1. Less attention
2. Separation
3. Guilt
4. More responsibilities
5. Fear

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After the child dies

Parent

1. Loss of roles
2. More new roles
 1. Griever
 2. Peacemaker
 3. Decision maker

Sibling

1. Grief
2. Loss of identity
3. Loss of roles

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Children's Understanding of Death

Age	Understanding of Death
0-3 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not comprehend death Aware of adult emotions and routine changes
3-5 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views death as temporary and reversible May be confused or feel guilty
5-9 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to understand finality May be superstitious Viewed as something that happens to others
9- 12 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepts death as final Has personal fear of death May show interest in how deaths occur (i.e. body info)

Rollins, J.A., Bollig, R., & Mahan, C. (2005). Meeting children's psychosocial needs across the health-care continuum. Austin, TX: pro-ed.

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Misconceptions about Children and Death

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Common Misconceptions about Children and Death

Misconception #1:

Children should be protected from information about death/dying.

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Common Misconceptions about Children and Death

Misconception #2:

Children should not be involved in the end of life process.

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Common Misconceptions about Children and Death

Misconception #3:

It is better to say “passed on” “he’s with Grandpa” or “she’s with the angels” rather than saying “death, died, dying”

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Common Misconceptions about Children and Death

Misconception #4:

Children should not attend funerals/ memorials.

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What can we do to help?

What do I say?

- “Big sick”
- Body explanations

Books

- *The Goodbye Book*
 - By: Todd Parr
- *When Dinosaurs Die; A Guide to Understanding Death*
 - By: Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown
- *Lifetimes; The Beautiful way to explain death to children*
 - By: Bryan Mellonie and Robert Ingpen
- *The Invisible String*
 - By: Patrice Karst
- *A Good Answers to Tough Questions Book About Death*
 - By: Joy Berry

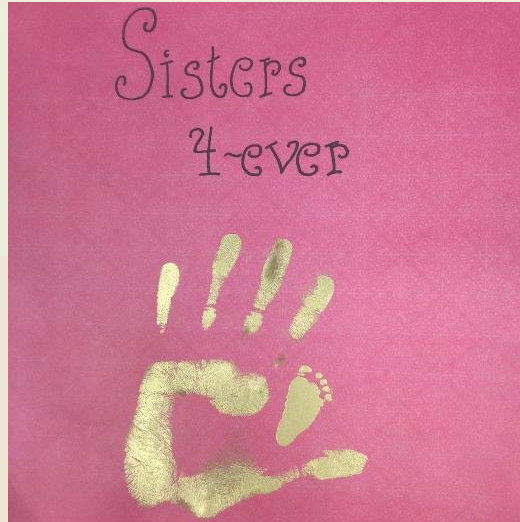
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What can I do?

- Maintain relationship
- Memory Making

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Memory Making Examples



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Memory Making Examples



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Medical Play/ Diagnosis Education

1. Familiarization/ learn
2. Control/coping
3. Information processing
4. New thoughts and questions



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What do siblings say?

1. Siblings wish for their own support
2. Siblings wish for information about their brother/sister's illness
3. Siblings wish to participate in the care of their brother/sister
4. Siblings wish for support to be given to their parents

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