

Discussing informational, emotional & relational aspects of grieving children's questions

Inviting

"When something like this happens, people can have lots of questions."

We can talk about any questions, even if I don't have answers.

What questions have you had?

Do you want to hear what others have asked?"

Validating

Repeat the question in the child's words

Validate the child's question & feelings

Acknowledge vulnerability

Reflecting

Clarify the question, language, or misconceptions
– *"what does that mean?"*

Explore underlying ideas

Acknowledge complexity and uncertainty – *"I don't know, but"*

Describing

**Informational aspects*

Build on understanding

***"what do you know/think...?"*

Clarify medical terms and euphemisms

Clear, concrete, honest step-wise responses
Check-in

Exploring/supporting

**Emotional / Relational aspects*

Explore / clarify elements of:

- Vulnerability
- Guilt / blame
- Helplessness
- Uncertainty

Discuss: Wonders, Worries, Wishes

Nurture connection & ongoing dialogue

Presence > answers