

places with one another. They have no understanding of the universality and inevitability of death.		
School-Age Children		
<p>Children still associate misdeeds or bad thoughts with causing death and feel intense guilt and responsibility for the event.</p> <p>Because of their higher cognitive abilities, they respond well to logical explanations and comprehend the figurative meaning of words. They have a deeper understanding of death in a concrete sense.</p> <p>They particularly fear the mutilation and punishment that they associate with death.</p> <p>They personify death as the devil, a monster, or the bogeyman.</p> <p>They may have naturalistic or physiologic explanations of death.</p> <p>By 9 or 10 years old, children have an adult concept of death, realizing that it is inevitable, universal, and irreversible.</p>	<p>Because of their increased ability to comprehend, they may have more fears, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reason for the illness • Communicability of the disease to themselves or others • Consequences of the disease • The process of dying and death itself <p>Their fear of the unknown is greater than their fear of the known.</p> <p>The realization of impending death is a tremendous threat to their sense of security and ego strength.</p> <p>They are likely to exhibit fear through verbal uncooperativeness rather than actual physical aggression.</p> <p>They are interested in post-death services.</p> <p>They may be inquisitive about what happens to the body.</p>	<p>Help parents deal with their feelings, allowing them greater emotional reserves to meet the needs of their children.</p> <p>Encourage parents to remain near child as much as possible yet be sensitive to parents' needs.</p> <p>Because of children's fear of the unknown, anticipatory preparation is important.</p> <p>Because the developmental task of this age is industry, interventions of helping children maintain control over their bodies and increasing their understanding allow them to achieve independence, self-worth, and self-esteem and avoid a sense of inferiority.</p> <p>Encourage children to talk about their feelings and provide aggressive outlets.</p> <p>Encourage parents to honestly answer questions about dying rather than avoiding the subject or fabricating euphemisms.</p> <p>Encourage parents to share their moments of sorrow with their children.</p> <p>Provide preparation for post-death services.</p>
Adolescents		
<p>Adolescents have a mature understanding of death.</p> <p>They are still influenced by remnants of magical thinking</p>	<p>Adolescents straddle transition from childhood to adulthood.</p> <p>They have the most difficulty in coping with death.</p> <p>They are least likely to accept cessation of life, particularly if it is their own.</p> <p>Concern is for the present much more</p>	<p>Help parents deal with their feelings, allowing them greater emotional reserves to meet the needs of their children.</p> <p>Avoid alliances with either parent or child.</p> <p>Structure hospital admission to</p>