Storyboard for Grief/Concepts of Death for all age groups

Infants/Toddlers (Birth to 3 years)

* Have little to no concept of death.
* Mirror their parents emotions
* React to changes that occur in the hospital (such as painful procedures, separation from family)
* May regress to an earlier stage of behavior

Preschool Children (3-6 years of age)

* Believe that their thoughts are enough to cause death, which may lead to feelings of guilt and shame
* Interpret separation from parents as punishment for bad behavior
* View dying as temporary
* Their greatest fear concerning death is separation from the parents.

School-age Children (6-12 years of age)

* Begin to have an adult concept of death
* Their fear of the unknown is greater than their fear of the unknown
* Fear is often displayed as uncooperative behavior
* May be curious about funeral services and what happens to the body after death

Adolescent (12-20 years of age)

* May have an adultlike concept of death
* Have the most difficulty in coping with death
* May be unable to relate to peers and communicate with parents
* Because of their idealistic view of the world, they may criticize funeral rites as barbaric, money making, and unnecessary.