

**Under Fives Roundabout
Loss and change Policy
Policy No: 1:19**

Last reviewed: **February 2023**

To be reviewed by: **February 2024**

Responsible member of staff: Dana Harrison

Signed: **Date:**

Responsible member of committee:

Signed: **Date:**

Policy for Supporting Children who are experiencing loss or change in their lives

We believe that loss and change (such as a death, parents getting divorced, familiar people moving away) are an inevitable part of living and growing. The feeling of loss is not confined to the death of a friend, carer, family member, neighbour or pet, but can also be brought on by a change of circumstance, such as divorce, change of setting or a relative or friend moving away.

If a child experiences loss, the staff will provide opportunities within the setting for the child to develop their own appropriate range of emotional, spiritual and intellectual responses to manage these experiences. We are aware different cultures and religions have differing rituals and traditions towards death and divorce so will be guided by parents and family wishes. Should a family ask for us to say, for example, Grandad is living up in the clouds, we would have a discussion with the family to encourage the use of honesty to prevent the child from misunderstanding and taking the statement literally. At Roundabout we recognise parents and caregivers as the most significant people to support children during times of loss and change in their lives and will endeavor to support the family.

At Roundabout we will

- Encourage the child to ask questions and answer them to the best of our ability, honestly and simply using concrete language and words that are age appropriate.
- Listen to the child, so they can share their thoughts and emotions in a safe and caring environment with a familiar adult.
- Observe the child, noting any concerns or changes in their play and interaction with others and sharing these with parents/carers.
- Find appropriate ways for the child to become involved in remembering the person/animal, such as story books, puppets, photo albums or a memory box.
- Arrange consultations to talk confidentially about how the child is coping and to offer further support.
- Ensure the other children understand how the child may feel more sensitive and therefore need space and understanding.

If you wish to discuss any concerns you have regarding this policy or your child's emotional welfare, please do not hesitate to contact your child's key person, the manager or any other member of the staff.