Under Fives Roundabout

Loss and Change Policy

Policy No: 1.19

Last reviewed: September 2025

To be reviewed by: Nov 2026

Responsible member of staff: Samantha Capes **Date:** 24/09/2025

Responsible member of Committee: Sam Minnaar Date: 24/11/2026

Supporting children who are experiencing loss or change in their lives

Statement of intent

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.

Aim

If a child experiences loss, the staff will provide opportunities within the setting to develop an appropriate range of emotional, spiritual and intellectual responses to manage these experiences.

Procedures

We are sensitive to different cultures, religions and traditions towards death and divorce so will be guided by the family and agree appropriate terminology and language. We will support the child(ren) as follows:

- 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.

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.