

PHILOSOPHY IN CONNECTION WITH DEATH AND MOURNING

The employees of the ECC must have a partner relationship with the parents. Trust and mutual respect are the basis.

The parents must share regularly any information lived by their family. Therefore, the relationship established with the educator, and the level of openness of the parent allows the depth of the information given.

ECC's vision during mourning:

- The ECC plays a supporting and helpful role, as much for the parent as for the child.
- If a child is mourning due to the loss of a family member, the preferred intervention would be above all, that the ECC meets the child's family.
- This will allow the ECC to identify the family's needs and what the family wishes to mention to the child.
- This will also allow the ECC to share resourceful tools with the parent. (CISSSO, etc..)

Actions and practices that may be done in connection with death and mourning:

- Sympathy card
- Writing an article on mourning in the newsletter to the parents
- An employee's presence at the funeral
- Multiple discussions with the children concerning death
- Discussions regarding spontaneous questions from the children concerning death
- Using Minipally program when an event occurs
- Making drawings available to a child who is sad
- Handouts - informational documents to the parents
- Access to resourceful people at the CISSSO
- Support among the team members when there is a crisis situation in relation to death

Vision on the pedagogically plan:

- The subject must be approached in a preventive measure during programming of activities, example: themes such as family, insects, animals, the cycle of life, etc.
- The ECC should be able to do activities regarding death in order to support the child in this difficult time. Example: books, tales, practices to put in place, explanation, familiarization and discussions according to the children's age.

In conclusion, the sense of uneasiness towards death and mourning is always more particular when it comes to speaking to the children. Having a good communication, trust, respect and openness between the ECC and the family; can only help the child get through this life experience in a more harmonious and healthier manner.