

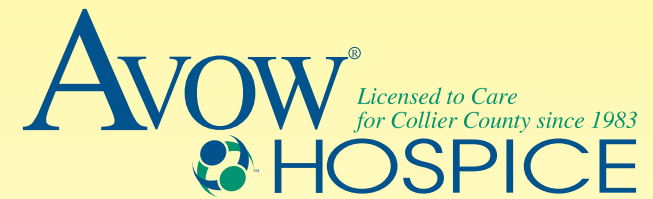
About AVOW® HOSPICE

Avow Hospice, licensed to care for Collier County since 1983, provides multidisciplinary health care services to people with life-threatening illnesses and their families. We also provide bereavement support and education on end-of-life topics to our community. Avow Hospice is a non-profit organization that relies on donations for support.

For more information

Call 239-261-4404 or visit our website www.avowhospice.org to obtain more information about our services.

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Bereavement SUPPORT for Children & Teens



The Grief Support Program at Avow Hospice offers a spectrum of services to meet the needs of grieving children in Collier County. Our services, designed for children ages 5-18, provide support and companionship to children who are grieving the loss of a parent, sibling, friend or relative through illness, accident, suicide or homicide. With the help of trained counselors, bereaved children are given an opportunity to move through their unique experience of loss in a safe, nonjudgmental environment. All services are offered free of charge.

Children’s Special Needs When Grieving

Grief is a normal response for children who are losing or have lost an important person through death. Often, however, the adults in their families are grieving too and may not be able to support their children fully. This may cause children to feel isolated in their grief. They often are not equipped to handle the intense emotions of grief, nor are they aware of what behaviors are considered “normal” responses. Giving them support and providing answers to their questions helps children grieve in healthy and adaptive ways.

Children also experience grief differently from adults. Depending on their age, they may have a limited understanding of death and may have misperceptions about end of

life. Children may also “revisit” an earlier death of a loved one as they grow older. Grief support and education on the grieving process enables the child to reprocess the earlier event with greater understanding.

Children who are not allowed to grieve or who are not supported appropriately through grief often vent their emotions in other ways. They may, for example, become:

- Disruptive in class
- Argumentative with their peers
- Depressed and withdrawn
- Unable to effectively attend to learning in school

What We Provide

To assist grieving children in Collier County, trained professional children’s counselors provide:

- **Children’s grief workshops** (six, one-hour sessions) held in Collier County schools (public and private) for children of similar ages and similar losses. Workshop activities include using art projects, videos, storybook discussions and the sharing of photos and memories as ways to express emotions and concerns in a safe, nonjudgmental environment.
- **School assistance** during times of crisis (for example, the death of a student or teacher).
- **Defusing sessions** with children exposed to a traumatic event.
- **Consultations with parents** to help them support their child in age-



appropriate ways.

- **Individual support** for children anticipating a loss through illness and death, or when a group is not currently available for a bereaved child.
- **Community education** on children’s grief issues.

Who We Serve

- Any youth, aged 5-18, who is grieving the loss of a loved one.
- Children who are facing the anticipated loss of a significant other as a result of illness and death.
- Children who have been exposed to a traumatic event which resulted in death or severe harm to another.
- School personnel who want assistance with crisis intervention when there has been a death of a student or faculty member.
- Parents of bereaved children.

Parental or guardian consent is required for minor children.