

## Understanding death: age and stage

2 years and below	2-5 years	Primary school age	Adolescents
No concept of death, but likely to react to upset and environmental changes	Will have an interest in death	Understand permanency	Adult understanding of death
< 6 months, sense of abandonment and insecurity	Use of word 'dead, death' and starting to have an awareness that this is different to alive	Will understand death is inevitable	Impact of moving from dependence to independence
>8 Months will have a mental image of the deceased and will have a 'sense' of missing them	No concept of permanency and need literal terms – no euphemisms. May need to be repeated many times	Will have magical thinking and still imaginative – will question permanency	Will find it difficult to deal with emotions and need permission to grieve

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