**POLICY FOR SUPPORTING**

 **CHILDREN EXPERIENCING LOSS OR CHANGE IN THEIR LIVES**

Coping with change, such as parents getting a divorce/leaving the family home, or a death of a family member, friend, or pet; can be very difficult for a child to cope with. Children experiencing this can often display their feelings and emotions in different and sometimes unexpected ways. This can be a very difficult time for all concerned, working together to help your child cope is essential.

I am aware that different religions and cultures have differing attitudes and rituals around death or divorce, and I will be guided by parents and family wishes at all times.

**I will aim to support your child by**

* **ENCOURAGING YOUR CHILD TO ASK QUESTIONS AND ANSWER THEM TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, USING LANGUAGE THEY WILL UNDERSTAND.**
* **TALKING TO THEM ABOUT THE PERSON, OR PET THAT HAS PASSED AWAY.**
* **LISTENING TO THEM, SO THEY CAN SHARE THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS IN A SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT, WITH A FAMILIAR AND SYMPATHETIC ADULT.**
* **FIND APPROPRIATE WAYS FOR THEM TO BE INVOLVED IN REMEMBERING THE PERSON OR ANIMAL, (E.G. SCRAP BOOKS, MEMORY BOX)**
* **REGULARLY DISCUSSING WITH YOU HOW YOUR CHILD MAY BE COPING, BUT NOT IN FRONT OF YOUR CHILD. A TIME MAY NEED TO BE ARRANGED FOR THIS.**
* **ENSURING THAT OTHER CHILDREN WHO ATTEND THE SETTING ARE AWARE THAT THEY MAY BE MORE SENSITIVE AT THE MOMENT, AND MAY REQUIRE MORE SPACE AND SUPPORT.**

SOMETIMES CHILDREN MAY NEED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING TO HELP THEM DEAL WITH A LOSS OR MAJOR CHANGE IN THEIR LIVES. I AM HAPPY TO SUPPORT YOU AND YOUR CHILD BY DIRECTING YOU TO THE SERVICES AVAILABLE.

PLEASE SPEAK WITH ME IF YOU FEEL YOU OR YOUR CHILD NEEDS ANY ADDITIONAL HELP OR SUPPORT.

