

Who provides the leadership for the events?

BKG events are not counseling sessions, although most of the leaders are counselors, social workers, hospice nurses, and chaplains. The one thing we have in common is a desire to provide a safe place for children and teens to express grief and develop coping skills through this experience.

Mentors

Adults who care about kids, especially those who have experienced the death of someone close to them, may volunteer to participate in the events. Mentors participate in training and planning of each event to provide the best possible experience for kids. Each mentor needs to have a background check documented. (BKG will pay for the background check and test).

"Big Buddy"

Mentors are "assigned" to each kid, and will have the opportunity to be with each other throughout the event.

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We attempt to provide...

- ♥ Day Camps each season of the year or as needed in the community.
- ♥ Camp Erin. A summer overnight camp that involves activities with grief education and emotional support.
- ♥ Educational and counseling resources for the community.
- ♥ Connection with various members of the bereavement community.

What activities are offered?

Each BKG event focuses on a theme or aspect of the grieving process. A variety of resources and activities are utilized to help create an atmosphere where kids are encouraged, if comfortable, to share their memories and feelings.

High energy activities are combined with grief education and emotional support to help children and teens cope with loss. Events, at times, are organized into age groups to engage in developmentally appropriate activities.

Who can attend?

The events are open to children 6-17 who have experienced the death of a loved one.

What is the cost?

There is no cost to attend. BKG is a non-profit organization and is the recipient of generous grants, corporate sponsorships, and the donations of individuals.

A Special Kind of Support

A child's grief is different than adult grief. According to Dr. Alan Wolfelt, of the Center for Loss & Transition, it happens more sporadically, in doses. Children will also express their feelings through creativity more often than through words.

Children grieve and re-grieve. Regardless of when a loss has occurred, children tend to revisit the grief experience at each development stage and when there are important anniversaries or special occasions. There is no road map or time table for grief. It is a life-long process, and everyone grieves differently. Family systems, religious beliefs, and personality all influence the way we choose to express grief.

"Any child mature enough to love is mature enough to grieve."

-Wolfelt, A. Healing the Bereaved Child. 1996. (69)



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