A booklet about death and funerals for people with Down's syndrome.





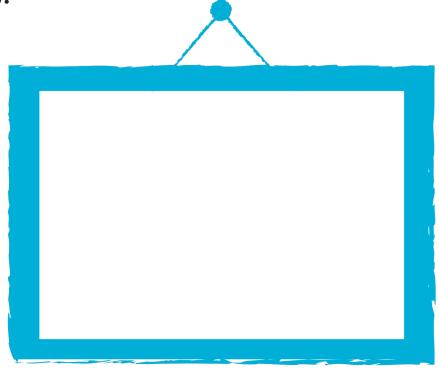
Let's talk about death



For more information or to obtain any of our other publications please visit www.dsscotland.org.uk

This book has been written to support an adult with a learning disability after someone close to them has died.

The name of the person who has died can be written into the book. A photograph can be stuck in below.



This book is about:

Why do people die?

Nobody lives forever.

There is always a reason why someone dies.

People die in different ways.

Sometimes people who die are young, and sometimes they are old.

Some people die quickly, maybe after an accident.

Other people die after an illness.

Some people die of old age.

Nothing you said or did makes anyone die.

Nothing you said or did made

die.

What happens when a person dies?

Now that cannot hear or see any	
	cannot speak to you.
The state of the s	·
Their body does not m	ove anymore.
If you want to you ma after they have died, b	y be able to go and see them efore the funeral.
	will look a bit different.
Their skin will feel cold	•
A friend, family members go with you.	er or support worker should
You can talk to	but they cannot
answer you or see you	•
They will be lying in a lid open. They are quite	oox called a coffin with the e safe.





What is a funeral?

A funeral might be in a church or other place of worship or a crematorium.

A funeral is a way of bringing together friends and family to say goodbye to

If you want to you can go to the funeral.

If you have never been to a Church, Crematorium or graveyard before you may like to go and visit with a friend before the funeral.

If you do go to Church you can talk to your Minister or Priest about _____ and about the funeral.



The day of the funeral

The coffin may go into a special car called a hearse.

A lot of people wear black or dark clothes to go to funerals.

People may appear quieter than at other times. They will feel sad.





Some people will cry. This is OK.

Sometimes the coffin is buried in the ground at a cemetery. There will be many gravestones.

Each gravestone tells you who is buried under it.

Some people use the word graveyard instead of cemetery. You can visit the cemetery after the funeral. Sometimes people take flowers.

Some people prefer to be cremated. This happens at the crematorium where the coffin is turned into ashes.

After the funeral people may meet together to talk and have something to eat and drink.

How do you feel?

It is important to talk about _____ when you want to.

Talking about helps you remember them and the time you spent with them.

You may feel sad and shocked.

You may feel like crying. This is OK.

It may take a while to remember that _____is not coming back.



What will happen?

You may behave differently.
You might not sleep as well at night.
You might feel angry with the doctors and nurses for letting it happen. You might feel angry with
It is normal to feel all of these things.
Try and talk about how you feel.
It is not anybody's fault that has died.
You will not always feel this sad.
A time will come when you think of and remember the good times that you had with them.

What about the future?

You can keep photographs of		
Maybe you can keep something that belonged to		
them.		
You may feel like spending more time with family and friends than usual.		
Doing some things for the first time without will feel sad.		
Birthdays and Christmas without		
will feel different.		
It is important to talk to a friend, family member or		
support worker about how you feel.		
You might have to talk about things that will change		
for you because has died.		

You may want to keep something to remember

photograph/photo frame,	
watching family videos,	
keepsakes like jewellery,	
a favourite book of	
a shirt,	
a hat,	
a favourite CD.	

This booklet is in an easy read format. It is advisable that family/carers/friends read the book and discuss the content with the person.

Down's Syndrome Scotland provides support to families, carers and professionals who care for people with Down's syndrome.

If you would like to access further support please call us on 0300 030 2121.

For further information visit: www.dsscotland.org.uk



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