

Millersville University

Grief in the Classroom

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By

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This Senior Thesis was completed in the Department of Early, Middle, and Exceptional Education, defended before and approved by the following members of the Thesis committee:

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Abstract

Studies show that one in 20 children will lose a parent by the age of 16, and almost all children experience the death of a close family member or friend by the end of high school. As a teacher it is inevitable that one will work with a grieving child. Yet “only 1% of teachers surveyed received bereavement training as part of their coursework in their undergraduate program or graduate school” (American Federation of Teachers, 2012, p. 4). These statistics have major implications for learning as grief can lead to academic, behavioral, and social issues (Stylianou & Zembylas, 2018, p. 241). Using qualitative research methodology, this study conducted by an undergraduate educational scholar, explores how educators can support grieving children in their classrooms. Implications relate to educator perceptions, classroom practices, and recommendations for additional research.

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