

Saying Goodbye to Dad



*To be used as a resource for parents/carers for
talking to children when death is near.
Suggested ages 5-11 years*

You may have already been told that your Dad is very ill. The doctors and nurses are working hard to make sure that he is comfortable, but we cannot make his illness go away and we cannot make him better.

Sometimes when a person is very ill their body cannot work properly. We can see that this is happening because people may become a lot sleepier, their breathing can change and they no longer want or need to eat and drink.

This means that the person is dying and the doctors and nurses believe that this is now happening to your Dad.





As Dad's body stops working as it should, his breathing may sound noisier. Sometimes people can seem a little bit restless but everyone is different.

You may want to spend time with your Dad. You can talk to him and hold his hand. He can still hear you and will know that you are there but he will probably not be able to talk to you. Some times children and grown ups decide that they do not want to spend time with their relative at this time and that is OK too.

It is important that you do what you feel is right for you. If you choose not to visit you may want to send a message, card or picture with a grown up who will be visiting.



When someone is dying we can feel lots of different things. We may feel very sad, angry that this is happening to us or just very muddled up. Remember, there is no right or wrong way to feel.

If there is anything that you don't understand or that you are worried about, you should try to ask a grown up who can help you. You may notice that the grown ups in your family are feeling very sad as well, but they still want to help and look after you.





Sometimes a person will be very sleepy for a number of days before they die. Other people may die more quickly. Everyone is different and sometimes things can change quite quickly. The important thing for you to remember is that the doctors and nurses will watch Dad very carefully and give him more medicine or different kinds of medicine to make sure that he's comfortable.

During this time you should still try to eat and drink, play, watch TV and speak to your friends, as you would normally do. It is very hard to be sad all the time and it may help you to do other things as well. This is VERY important too.



When someone dies, their body stops working. They stop breathing and their heart stops beating. They may look a bit paler and after a little while their skin may feel cold. It is ok to touch or kiss him if you would like to. You will not hurt dad because when a person dies they do not feel anymore.

After someone we love has died, we may feel lots of different things like sadness, anger and relief. Again there is no right or wrong way to feel, but it helps to try to talk about your feelings with grown ups that you trust and ask about anything that is worrying you.





This may be a really difficult and painful time but there will be people around to help you.

Things will not always be so difficult. You will never forget your Dad, but in time it will not hurt quite so much as it does today.

Remember that he will always be your Dad and all the times that you have shared together and your special memories will last forever.





**All families are different and if you would like to talk through your specific situation you can call Winston's Wish Helpline on 08452 030405 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm) calls are charged at the local rate.
www.winstonwish.co.uk**

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