

laugh anyway. At one point he touches on the fact that some children may die, but in his own way he explains that heaven is probably a nice place to be and only scary because we have never been there, and they will be joining all their dead relatives that they haven't seen in years, who are up there already.

Though sad, this book was very appealing to read and concentrates on how to cope with living with cancer rather than on dying, of which he obviously has no experience. Written in the simple language of an eight-year-old, it has a directness that may be very helpful to a child going through the same experience, and he certainly makes a lot of good suggestions about the best way to cope with the treatment. It gives carers, too, good insight into the way a child who is going through a very frightening experience feels.

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Child Psychiatrist, Royal Free Hospital,
London

WHEN SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL DIES

Marge Heegaard.

Minneapolis: Woodland Press.

\$4.95 (discount for bulk orders).

This book is written with the full expectation, in the words of the author, that 'children can learn to cope with grief'. It is aimed at children between six and twelve. At the beginning there is an introduction for adults to help the child through the process of coping with death and grief, and a separate introduction headed 'to grieving children'. After this the book is

divided into six parts which lead children through the process of grieving successfully by learning various things about life and death which they can explore by doing their own drawings. The drawings by the children are done only by suggestion of the area they should be thinking about, but with no precise instruction. This way they are encouraged, with the help of several positive statements, to express their own feelings and not only to look at death, but think of themselves in terms of the dead person and all their feelings for life and living.

The author is an art therapist who has worked with children and adults in grief counselling and has learnt that by drawing, children are able to express a lot of the feelings for which they may not have the vocabulary. In the introduction she also suggests a list of additional reading for each section of the book that can be read to or by the child. These help to provide more ideas about the section the child is working on. In this way the children are encouraged to let ideas come into their minds that fit with their own before they start to draw.

This concept seems a good one for children who are grieving for someone, although it may be difficult for an adult with no training to be able to help the child through the book, particularly if they themselves are grieving. The author suggests at the beginning that if adults are grieving as well, they should try to get some support for themselves at the same time, and that this in itself would help the child.

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FACILITATOR GUIDE FOR WHEN SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL DIES

Marge Heegaard. Minneapolis:

Woodland Press. \$15.00.

This guide goes with the above book by Marge Heegaard and gives advice for setting up and running a group for children who are all grieving. In the groups they use the book 'When Someone Very Special Dies' with the drawing as their basic framework. The beginning of the book is rather confusing. Is it for art therapists, other professionals concerned with child care, or lay people who have an interest? There is a good section on children's concepts of death based on Piaget's developmental stages, followed by developmentally appropriate death education. There follow other sections discussing the background of the problems of death for the child and the use of art therapy in bereavement.

The book is clear and easy to follow, with many good ideas. Some of these would help an individual parent who wanted to work through 'When Someone Very Special Dies' with a child, but for groups I feel that someone with a lot more experience in child work would be necessary in order to manage a group of bereaved children of varying ages. For such a person, this guide would be extremely helpful.

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Cruse News

Cruse is the national United Kingdom voluntary organisation for bereavement care

Cruse House, 126 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1UR, England
(tel. 01-940 4818)

Director: Derek Nuttall Training Officer: Nicholas Tyndall
Information Officer: Wendy Wilson

Derek Nuttall

Cruse's Chairman, Dr. Colin Murray Parkes, writes:

'It is with great regret that the Council of Cruse learned of Derek's intention to resign his post as Director of Cruse as soon as a suitable successor can be found and trained up to replace him. While accepting his decision, the Council expressed their satisfaction with the way Derek has fulfilled his many roles and their sincere gratitude for all that he has done for Cruse'.

Anyone interested in applying for the post of Director is invited to write for details to Dr. Colin Murray Parkes, Chairman of Cruse, Cruse House, 126 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1UR.

Cruse 30th Anniversary

This year Cruse celebrates the 30th anniversary of its founding in 1959. Among the many Pearl Anniversary events throughout

the United Kingdom is a special day in Cardiff including a service in Llandaff Cathedral and an evening concert. This will take place during Cruse National Awareness Week, the first week in October. Cruse in Northern Ireland has organised a Day Conference, also in October.

Westminster Abbey Service

Also to celebrate the Pearl Anniversary there will be a Cruse Evensong at Westminster Abbey at 5 p.m. on 10th October, open to all. A buffet supper will be held afterwards; tickets for the supper are £6 and can be obtained from Cruse House.

New Branches

New Cruse Branches have opened at Mansfield, Bridlington, Dover and District, Newtown, Wirral, Bournemouth, Rushden, North Warwickshire and Weston-super-Mare.

BEREAVEMENT CARE JOURNAL

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"Bereavement Care" is published three times a year in Spring, Summer and Winter. An index to 1988 and 1989, volumes 7 and 8, will appear in the Winter issue 1989.