What is the ICBN

Hub for those working with bereaved children, young people and their families in Ireland
WHY BE CONCERNED ABOUT CHILDREN IN ADULT HOSPITALS

Most adults who die are parents or grandparents of children or young people.

The acute hospital is not always conducive to accommodating children coming to visit dying or deceased family members.

Restrictions often deter families from considering bringing children/young people to hospitals.

Concerned staff often believe that children ‘won’t cope’.

Consensus in the literature that children need information and education about death.

*Irish Childhood Bereavement Network*


Why a childhood bereavement network for Ireland?

Services disjointed
Isolation amongst staff
Funding
Lack of standards and uniformity in services
No signposting or directory of services
Lack of any forum for information and exchange

Irish Childhood Bereavement Network
Key Task of the ICBN:

to develop a framework for identifying the needs of a child or young person who is bereaved

‘Irish Childhood Bereavement Care Pyramid’

Hopefully the pyramid has brought together a set of complex information in a user-friendly way for the first time.

The pyramid will promote a national pathway to guide families and practitioners to appropriate support and services for vulnerable children and young people.

Irish Childhood Bereavement Network
CONTENT OF THE PYRAMID

Intended as a quick reference guide for those who are concerned with identifying the needs of a child or a young person who is bereaved.

Review three facets of childhood bereavement: needs, supports/services and competencies.

Identifies 4 levels of needs for children who are bereaved.

Irish Childhood Bereavement Network
The Irish Childhood Bereavement Care Pyramid

Time and Developmental Stage

Family Context
The Irish Childhood Bereavement Care Pyramid

EXPLANATION & REASSURANCE
- occasional physical symptoms
- questioning
- to have routine and schedules

NEEDS
The Irish Childhood Bereavement Care Pyramid

Time and Developmental Stage

Family Context

EXPLANATION & REASSURANCE
- occasional physical symptoms
- questioning
- to have routine and schedules

INFORMATION & GUIDANCE
- accurate and honest age appropriate information
- easily accessible via websites, leaflets, bereavement helplines
- family and community based

NEEDS → SERVICE/SUPPORT
The Irish Childhood Bereavement Care Pyramid

**Explaination & Reassurance**
- occasional physical symptoms
- questioning
- to have routine and schedules

**Normalise & Enhance Coping**
- regressive behavior
- constantly questioning
- diminished coping
- feeling isolated

**Organised Bereavement Support Services**
- meeting others with similar experience
- helps develop coping strategies
- preferably community based

**Awareness that Grief is a Normal Reaction to Loss**
- understanding of children’s / young people’s reaction to loss
- understanding levels of need
- awareness of how to access services

Needs ➔ Service/Support ➔ Competencies
The Irish Childhood Bereavement Care Pyramid

Time and Developmental Stage

Level 1
- Explanation & Reassurance
  - occasional physical symptoms
  - questioning
  - to have routine and schedules

Level 2
- Normalize & Enhance Coping
  - regressive behavior
  - constantly questioning
  - diminished coping
  - feeling isolated

Organized Bereavement Support Services
- Meeting others with similar experience
- Helps develop coping strategies
- Preferably community based

Knowledge & Basic Skills
- Knowledge of children’s / young people’s reaction to loss
- Knowledge of bereavement theory
- Assessment, listening & empathy skills

Awareness that Grief is a Normal Reaction to Loss
- Understanding of children’s / young people’s reaction to loss
- Understanding levels of need
- Awareness of how to access services

Needs → Service/Support → Competencies
The Irish Childhood Bereavement Care Pyramid

EXPLANATION & REASSURANCE
- occasional physical symptoms
- questioning
- to have routine and schedules

NORMALISE & ENHANCE COPING
- regressive behavior
- constantly questioning
- diminished coping
- feeling isolated

ADDITIONAL NEEDS
- symptoms over time
- impacts on day to day functioning

COMPLEX NEEDS
- suicidal ideation
- self harming

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING
- appropriate child centred

ORGANISED BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES
- meeting others with similar experience
- helps develop coping strategies
- preferably community based

ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS
- academic qualification
- substantial clinical experience

KNOWLEDGE & BASIC SKILLS
- knowledge of children’s / young people’s reaction to loss
- knowledge of bereavement theory
- assessment, listening & empathy skills

INFORMATION & GUIDANCE
- accurate and honest age appropriate information
- easily accessible via websites, leaflets, bereavement helplines
- family and community based

AWARENESS THAT GRIEF IS A NORMAL REACTION TO LOSS
- understanding of children’s / young people’s reaction to loss
- understanding levels of need
- awareness of how to access services

Family Context

Time and Developmental Stage

NEEDS → SERVICE/SUPPORT → COMPETENCIES
The ICBN have a number of objectives moving forward including:

Promotion and integration of the framework into professional education programmes

Development of regional networks to ensure timely and appropriate access to bereavement services for all children who experience loss.

Irish Childhood Bereavement Network