

# Professional Certificate in Children and Loss (Level 9)

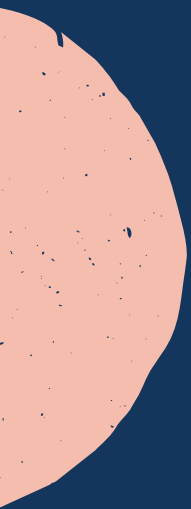


Course  
Schedule

2023/2024

When a child experiences loss, either through death or parental separation, their needs are often misunderstood or overlooked.

Because children may express their grief in ways that are different to adults, their reactions may go unrecognised. This Professional Certificate seeks to equip practitioners with the necessary skills to understand and support children on their grief journey.



# Course Schedule

## Module One: Understanding Children and Loss

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- debate the merits of theoretical frameworks for children's loss experiences.
- apply aspects of theories and models to explain individual children's grief experiences.
- assess the moderators in responses to loss, including stage of development and nature of death and relationship lost.
- critique contemporary understanding of bereavement and loss from a life-cycle perspective.
- demonstrate critical, reflective practice and self-awareness.
- locate and critique current knowledge on a loss related topic.

**Thursday, 7 September 2023**

#### **Orientation**

Caroline Golding Brady

Participants will be oriented to the certificate course and the available resources.

**Friday, 8 September 2023**

#### **An Overview of Child Development and Loss Theory**

Conor McGuckin

This input will provide a theoretical foundation to how children learn and develop and will present models of grief in children and adolescents.

**Thursday, 5 October 2023**

#### **Self-care for Carers**

Lecturer to be confirmed

This input will address the importance of self-care when working with bereaved children. Strategies to strengthen personal self-care and avoid compassion fatigue will be addressed.

#### **Children's Grief in the Family Context**

Estelle McGinley

This input situates the child within the family of origin context and considers how different family systems impact on a child's experience of loss.



**Friday, 6 October 2023**

**Younger Children and Loss**

Tara Smith

This input examines the issues that arise for young bereaved children and their carers.

**Thursday, 2 November 2023**

**Adolescents and Loss**

Bríd Carroll

This input explores change and loss in the life of the adolescent. Family and peer loss and the issue of teenage suicide are addressed.

**Friday, 3 November 2023**

**When Changes Occur in Families**

Diane Hanly

This input considers the impact on children when loss occurs in the family, either through parental separation, the death of a family member or other significant changes. The link between attachment and loss in the life of a child will be explored.

**Friday, 1 December 2023**

**Integrative Session**

(Online 9.15am - 1.15pm)

A small group session with facilitators to integrate the learning from course material.



## Module Two: Addressing Loss Issues with Children

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- evaluate appropriate interventions for working with children experiencing loss.
- locate and appraise intervention strategies for working with children experiencing loss.
- assess formal support services and resources available for children facing loss and bereavement.

**Thursday, 11 January 2024**

**Therapeutic Interventions with Young Children**

Tara Smith

This input will focus on effective ways of working with young children. Participants will have an opportunity to familiarise themselves with available resources for working with young children.

**Friday, 12 January 2024**

**Working with Adolescents and Families**

Caroline Golding Brady

This input will focus on effective ways of working with older children/adolescents to include the family and address the use of social media platforms as a way of offering bereavement support for adolescents.

**Thursday, 1 February 2024**

**Understanding Traumatic Grief in Children**

Barnardos Children's Bereavement Service

This input will focus on the effect of traumatic deaths on children and how this can complicate the grieving process. Therapeutic techniques to help children cope with traumatic grief are explored.

**Friday, 2 February 2024**

**Using Creative Arts: An Introduction to Art and Clay**

Suzie Cahn

Participants will be given hands-on experiential practice in the therapeutic use of art and clay, and are introduced to the use of creative arts with bereaved children.



**Thursday, 7 March 2024**

**Integrative Session**

(Online 9.15am - 1.15pm)

A small group session with facilitators to integrate the learning from course material.

**Friday, 8 March 2024**

**Bereavement Services and Resources**

Presentations from organisations that provide services for bereaved children and children experiencing other losses.

The course will be taught in-person with the exception of the two half-day Integrative Group Sessions on 1 December 2023 and 7 March 2024 which will be online.

All in-person sessions will be held in Irish Hospice Foundation, Morrison Chambers, 4th Floor, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2 from 9.15am - 4.15pm

**To apply**

All applications need to be made online through the RCSI website. Follow the link below:  
<https://www.rcsi.com/dublin/postgraduate/taught-courses/children-and-loss/course-details>

**For general queries contact**

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**Online applications  
will be accepted  
until 4 May 2023**