



HOW STUDENTS MAY REACT FOLLOWING THE NEWS OF A DEATH

How Students May React

- Children may appear:
 - quiet
 - talkative
 - crying
 - rowdy
 - thoughtful
 - cruel
 - any combination of reactions is possible
 - withdrawn
 - laughing
 - curious
 - belligerent
 - cooperative
 - numb/in shock
- Accept a child's response with neutrality as long as the child is not hurting himself or others. Each is a valid and often sensible response for that particular child.

How Can You Detect An At-Risk Student?

- Students may be directly related to the crisis, i.e., the friends of someone who has died.
- Students may be unrelated to the present crisis but recovering from a recent tragedy in their own family or community.
- Students may be undergoing the stress of accumulated losses.

Regardless of the situation, all students may be potentially "at-risk." Observe them, listen to them, and ask others for help in finding the students that may need extra care and attention.

- At-Risk behavior may appear in any of 3 categories:
 1. Persistent withdrawal;
 2. Persistent acting out;
 3. Excessive obedience or achievement.

Whenever a child's behavior places that child or another in a dangerous situation, then the staff must find professional help for the child.

**information adapted with permission from Hospice of Metro Denver*