



IN-SCHOOL SERVICES

Patch Club: In-School Peer Support Groups

Healing Patch works with school districts lacking community bereavement services. HP staff and/or volunteers train school personnel (i.e. school counselor, social worker, etc.) in facilitating 6-week peer support groups. Through this “train the trainer” approach, school districts are equipped to offer Patch Club for different ages based on the needs of their students. Healing Patch staff could remain in a consultative role supporting school grief facilitators after training. Through group discussions and various activities, the following are addressed among peers:

- issues surrounding the death
- feelings
- fears & worries
- memories
- changes and rebuilding

Grief Education in the Classroom

Healing Patch staff and/or volunteers present grief/loss & death/dying information as part of middle/high school health class curriculum. Students will gain an understanding of the following:

- the normal feelings & responses often associated with the grief process
- how to support a peer who is grieving
- how to seek out supportive services through their school & community

Educational In-Services

Healing Patch staff and/or volunteers present educational workshops/in-services to school personnel, Parent-Teacher Organization members, or groups of parents/caregivers on various grief-related topics. The goal is to provide the following:

- an awareness of the needs of grieving children
- knowledge of the needs of grieving children at different developmental stages
- how to support a grieving child
- information regarding available community resources for grieving children
- an understanding of Children’s Grief Awareness Day

To arrange services at your school, contact Healing Patch staff:

Melody Ray, Healing Patch Coordinator
raymr@upmc.edu or 814-947-7200

Shalen Steinbugl, Healing Patch Volunteer Coordinator/Grief Specialist
steinbuglsm@upmc.edu or 814-947-7140

The Healing Patch program offers supportive services to grieving children and families who have experienced a significant death.

The following services are offered:

- Family Sessions at Healing Patch Centers located in Blair and Cambria counties
- In-School Services (see right)
- Community Education/Outreach
- Various resources through our Lending Libraries

All services are available free-of-charge, relying on individual and community dollars, grants, and fundraising events.

Families can enroll by calling 1-800-445-6262.



Wear **BLUE** in support of Children’s Grief Awareness Day on the 3rd Thursday in November each year.

www.childrengriefawarenessday.org