



*...helping grieving hearts heal*

## **Explaining Funerals to Children**

It is important to remember to use words which are simple and concrete when talking to children about death. The following are suggestions that can be modified depending on the age of the child.

**Ashes-** also “cremains”. What is left of a dead body after cremation. Looks like chunky sand or fine rocks except it is white or gray.

**Burial-** the placing of the body (which is inside a casket – or urn if the body was cremated) into the ground.

**Casket-** a special box for burying a dead body.

**Cemetery-** a place where many dead bodies and ashes are buried.

**Columbarium-** a little building at a cemetery where ashes are stored. Similar to a grave that is above the ground.

**Cremation-** the dead body is put in a special, metal container or box that gets very hot inside. The heat turns all of the body parts into ash.

**Dead-** when a person’s body stops working. It does not see, hear, feel, eat, breathe, etc., anymore.

**Funeral-** a time when friends and families get together to say goodbye and remember the person who died.

**Funeral Home-** a place where bodies are kept until they are buried or cremated.

**Grave-** the hole in the ground where the body or ashes are buried at the cemetery.

**Obituary-** a short article in the newspaper that tells about the person who died.

**Scattering-** when the dead person’s ashes are lovingly emptied onto the ground or water (or sometimes in the air) at a place that was special to him or her.

**Urn-** a special container that holds the cremated person’s ashes.

**Viewing-** the time when people can see the body of the person who died and say good-bye.

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