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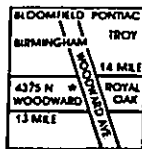
Funeral Directors

Community Announcement

Grief and Loss - A Monthly Support Group
Next Meeting Monday, April 11th
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Louis Rodgers
Paul S. Connell
Larry Flor

549-0500
4375 N. Woodward
between 13 & 14 Mile Rd.



Researchers say dying children know more than parents think

AP — Dying children realize what's happening to them even if parents try to keep the nature of their illness secret, according to a researcher who has studied the issue for 15 years.

"For a long time, we thought that children didn't know they were dying if they weren't told because they weren't talking about it," Myra Bluebond-Langner of Rutgers University said. "But I've found that they know and aren't talking about it because they realize that their parents don't want to discuss it."

"They will do anything to keep the people they love around them, so they'll follow any rules we set up, such as not talking about approaching death," she said.

CHILDREN SEE THE progression of their diseases not only in their own health, but also in the reactions of their relative, Bluebond-Langner said in a lecture recently at the University of Florida.

"I've had a child say to me, 'Look at Mommy's red nose,' or 'Grandma calls long-distance more often now,'" she said.

Most terminal-care facilities had a policy in the 1970s and early 1980s against telling children that they were dying. But Bluebond-Langner's study and a trend toward openness is changing that.

"The big question is always to tell or not to tell. But I don't see that as the real issue. The question is what to tell, when to tell it, how to tell it and who should do the telling," she said.

Terminally ill children go through several stages until they understand their life is coming to an end, she said.

At first, they recognize that they have a serious illness and believe they will recover. When the illness continues or they relapse, children hold on to the belief that they will eventually get better, while feeling that they are always sick.



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