Grief and Loss
Additional Resources

Title, Date & Author	Brief Synopsis	Additional Notes
Wallace, S. (2003). The grieving child in care. *Children's Voice, May/June.*	This article offers the reader the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of the losses experienced by foster children. Through an interview with a child and adolescent psychiatrist who was once a foster child herself, information is presented that outlines the many types of losses that foster children experience and describes some of the resulting behaviors. Suggestions are included for helping children cope with their feelings of grief and loss.	http://library.adoption.com/\
Walker, J. (2007). Unresolved loss and trauma in parents and the implications in terms of child protection. *Journal of Social Work Practice, 21*(1), 77-87.	This paper explores the connection between unresolved loss and trauma in parents and the resulting issues in terms of child protection. A model for assessing unresolved trauma in parents and its implications for child abuse is outlined. Particular emphasis is placed on whether the individual has been able to 'come to terms' with his childhood experiences. It is argued that traumatic experiences in childhood are not in themselves problematic in terms of parenting ability; what becomes crucial is whether the individual has been able to resolve the issues.	http://jim-walker.co.uk/

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Leathers, S. J. (2005). Separation from siblings: Associations with placement adaptation and outcomes among adolescents in long term foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review, 27,* 793-819.	This study explores the issue of sibling separation in placement decisions. The article examines why siblings are separated or how different sibling placement patterns relate to children's placement adaptation and permanency outcomes. The issue was investigated using data from a study involving telephone interviews with the caseworkers and foster parents of a cross-sectional sample of 197 randomly selected young adolescents in long-term, traditional family foster care. Placement outcomes, including placement disruption, reunification, and adoption, were followed prospectively for five years. Results of multivariate analyses indicate that adolescents who were placed alone after a history of joint sibling placements were at greater risk for placement disruption than those who were placed with a consistent number of siblings while in foster care. Unexpectedly, youth placed alone, either throughout their stay in foster care or after a history of sibling placements, were less likely to exit to adoption or subsidized guardianship than youth with consistent joint sibling placements.	http://www.mendeley.com/
Schneider, K. & Phares, V. (2005). Coping with parental loss because of termination of parental rights. *Child Welfare, 84*(6), 819-842.	This article addresses the process by which children and adolescents cope with severe acute stress of parental loss from causes other than divorce or death. Participants were 60 children and adolescents from a residential treatment facility. Most	http://www.cwla.org/articles/cwjabstracts.htm volume 84:6

had experienced neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse, and their parents had their parental rights terminated. Measures of symptomatology indicated that children reported low levels of depressive symptoms, whereas caregivers reported the children were experiencing significant psychological problems. Results are discussed in terms of helping children cope with parental loss by shifting intervention focus from promoting "healthy grieving" to answering children's questions, normalizing the situation, increasing the children's resources (problem-solving skills, interpersonal skills, self-esteem), and increasing children's social support network. In addition, the child's own reactions to the loss events should be ascertained, before assuming that the child is reacting like others.