

# PARADISE KIDS BUDDY ROLE DESCRIPTION



## Purpose of the Role

A Buddy plays a key role in the Paradise Kids Grief and Loss Support Groups as a member of the team providing one-on-one support for each of the children in the group by helping them explore, understand and give safe expression to their feelings about their experience of loss and grief.

## Reports to and is Accountable to

The Leader of the specific Children's Group, under the overall leadership of the Paradise Kids Team.

## Key Responsibilities

- Develop a strong relationship with your child through genuineness, non-possessive warmth and accurate empathy.
- Provide a safe and supportive environment by working with your child in a non-judgmental way, and by encouraging sharing of their experience through allowing, validating, normalising and acknowledging.
- Assist your child to learn safe and appropriate ways to express their feelings.
- Model to your child adherence to the conventions of the group as well as the directions given by the Team leader, e.g. responding to the bells, use of the bear, etc.
- Keep everyone safe through clear and consistent observance of the core ground rules: "Not to hurt others, not to hurt yourself and not to hurt the property".
- Focus on recognising your child's strengths and reflect those choices and qualities back to them.
- Report any concerns about a child's welfare immediately to the Team leader for action, and do not go into detail with the child once you have become aware of the concern.
- Limit contact with your child's parent/carer in order to protect the confidentiality of the buddy/child relationship.
- Ensure that your child is supervised at all times.
- Be committed to attending all group sessions including the briefing and de-briefing.
- Share and reflect on your own experience in the briefing and debriefing sessions.
- Help in setting up, tidying away and cleaning up wherever possible.
- Be aware of and adhere to the policies and procedures related to being a Paradise Kids Buddy.

## Skills Essential for the Position

- Able to take direction from the team leader.
- Able to work as part of a team and be respectful and supportive of other buddies.
- Able to communicate and engage with children and adults.

## Qualifications & Requirements

- Must hold a current Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Blue Card before starting as a buddy.
- Must have completed the Grief Counselling Course with a Focus on Children and Grief provided by Hopewell Education Services (including the Art Therapy and Working with Children's Art components).
- Must attend further training, including Workplace Health & Safety, as required by Paradise Kids.
- Must be committed to punctuality and reliability.

