

## Help for Kids (and parents!) is just a few steps away.

If you or your kids have questions, we have answers and fun, helpful things to do. Take your child to our *Kid Care Center* for a few minutes before viewing or visiting with the family. Let the kids get acquainted with our craft projects and play things while you decide how you want to share this experience with them.

## Four Parent Pathways

**Stop & Go** - Take a moment to stop in at the Kid Care Center and just get acquainted with our people and our resources before going into visitation. Difficult, new experiences are easier when you can approach them gradually. Pausing briefly in our home-like playroom, lets both you and your child “take a breath” and get centered, before going on.

**Listen & Learn** - If you wish, we can help you explain death, grief, viewing, burial, cremation and many funeral customs. Just ask for a director or counselor. One of our child care assistants can also give you some pamphlets. We’ve had a children’s center in our funeral home for over thirty years and talk with over a thousand kids every year - from pre-school to high school. Our approach is to simply and gently share basic truths that form building blocks for learning about death and grief.

**Share & Care** - Sharing memories and showing you care, helps validate a child’s feelings and his or her importance as a friend of the person who died. We offer several ways for children to share and care. They may join other kids in drawing on a large memorial banner, make a personal memory picture or card of their own; create a memory box, bracelet or other craft which they may keep, deposit in the casket or give to a special family member.

**Stay & Play** - Play is often a child’s grief-work and spending time here with new and old friends can help some children process the experience in an open, non-threatening atmosphere. Although we do provide kid-care assistance throughout visitation, if your child decides to “Stay & Play”, please check in now and then. Children who know their parents are near by, are better playmates.

**SPECIAL HELP** - For special counseling help, to connect with one of our child or adult programs, for help in finding a program in your area or to make an appointment for grief counseling, contact Conley Outreach Grief Care at 630-365-2880 or Heartland Counseling at 630-365-0899 both are not-for-profit organizations affiliated with us. Or, just call the funeral home at 630-365-6414, 1-800-8-CONLEY, we’re here to help.