

An illustration of a woman and a young child walking together in a park. The woman is wearing a yellow dress with purple flowers and a purple scarf. The child is wearing a red and white striped shirt and green pants, holding a blue teddy bear. They are walking on a path with many yellow and orange leaves falling around them. The background is a light blue sky with more falling leaves.

Something Very Sad Happened

A Toddler's Guide to Understanding Death

by Bonnie Zucker

illustrated by Kim Fleming

Something very sad happened.
Grandma died.



When someone dies, their body stops working.
Grandma's body stopped working.



It is like when your toy stops working because it needs new batteries, except that **Grandma's** body cannot work again.



It's okay to feel sad or scared,
and it's okay to cry.

Mommy may cry, too.





A watercolor illustration of a child with long dark hair, wearing a yellow and purple striped shirt, sitting on the ground under a large tree. The child is hugging a purple stuffed animal. The ground is covered with fallen leaves, and more leaves are falling from the tree. The background is a soft, light blue wash.

Children's/
Grief/
Mental Health
Ages 2-3

When a loved one dies, it can be hard to know how to explain it to a young child, particularly if you are grieving the loss yourself.

Sensitively written and gently illustrated, *Something Very Sad Happened* explains death in developmentally appropriate terms for two- and three-year-old children. It reassures the child that it is okay to feel sad, and that love never dies.

Includes a **Note to Parents and Caregivers** with more information about how to talk about death, answer your child's questions, and maintain your connection throughout the grieving process.

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