 **NHS Education for Scotland**

**Transcript of ‘Pre-bereavement Support for Children and Families in Palliative Care’ conference film clip recording**

**Speaker**: Jade Finlayson, Child and Families Lead Practitioner, St Columba’s Hospice Care

Hi everyone. My name's Jade Finlayson and I'm the Child and Families Lead Practitioner at St. Columba's Hospital Care in Edinburgh.

Our service offers pre and post bereavement support to children and young people when someone in their families been diagnosed with an incurable illness or has died from an incurable illness. We offer support and information to parents and carers on how to explain incurable illness to their children, as well as providing childhood grief awareness sessions to both school staff and health and social care staff. During these sessions, we often hear that the difficult conversations staff are having with families can feel even more challenging and overwhelming when children are involved due to being unsure of what to say or worrying that they might say the wrong thing. I hope that following this session, you'll feel more confident when having these conversations with families.

This session on supporting families with children in palliative care will cover why pre-bereavement support in early intervention are important to provide children and young people the best chance of coping following the death of a family member. We'll cover information around childhood bereavement, some of the grief reactions that a child may display and their understanding of death and dying at different ages and stages of development.

We'll also look at how to support and include children at the end of someone's life, both at home and in a palliative care setting. Some of the most asked questions we receive are how to explain that someone is going to die to a child and what language to use around this, should the child continue to visit the person when they're dying, should they be present at the death and questions surrounding attending the funeral. This session will provide suggested answers to these questions as well as ways to include children in these decisions that are being made.

I hope you'll find this session helpful and I look forward to seeing you there. Thank you.

The film was produced in September 2025 and can be found at <https://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk/conference/> or <https://vimeo.com/1122813886>

For more information visit [www.sad.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk) or contact [supportarounddeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:supportarounddeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk)

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