

Compassionate Guidance: Talking With Children About School Violence

A Message From Roberta's House – Healing After Loss Outreach Program

When tragedies like school shootings occur, children often feel afraid or confused. As parents and caregivers, your calm presence and guidance make all the difference.

Start With Listening

- Ask what your child has heard.
- Let them share in their own words.
- Acknowledge and validate their feelings.

Use Honest, Simple Language

- Keep explanations age-appropriate.
- For younger children: “Your teachers are here to keep you safe.”
- For teens: “These events are rare, but it’s normal to feel upset.”

Reassure Safety

- Emphasize that many adults—teachers, principals, community leaders—are working to keep schools safe.
- Share what their school does to protect students.



*Children don't need
all the answers. They
need your listening
ear, your honesty,
and your calm
presence.*

You can bring light, compassion, and hope to families grieving the loss of a child. Together, we can help them find healing robertashouse.org/Donate.

Practical Tools & Support

Model Calm & Care

- Share your feelings, but show healthy coping.
- Limit repeated news and social media exposure.

Encourage Healthy Expression

- Invite drawing, journaling, prayer, or talking.
- Stick to regular routines for stability.
- Remind them they can always talk to a trusted adult.

Keep the Conversation Open

- Revisit the topic in the days ahead.
- Let them know you are always available to listen.

Signs Your Child May Need Extra Help

- Seek professional support if your child shows:
- Intense fear or anxiety that doesn't lessen.
- Changes in sleep or appetite.
- Withdrawal from friends or activities.
- Trouble concentrating or ongoing sadness.

We walk alongside families through grief and trauma, offering compassionate support and hope.

For more Information about HALO, Contact: Dr. Tracy Turner, tturner@robertashouse.org (410) 235-6633 ext. 110

Every child deserves comfort, and every parent deserves support. Your generosity helps HALO walk with families through their darkest moments.



I care for you, you care for me, and we care for each other!



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