

This is a sample social story about death and grieving. It was written for a teenage boy, Eric, after his aide died.

This social story was personalized for Eric using his passion for Disney's "The Lion King" to help him understand that Kelly is now watching over him "like Mufasa". It also incorporates his family's belief in Heaven.

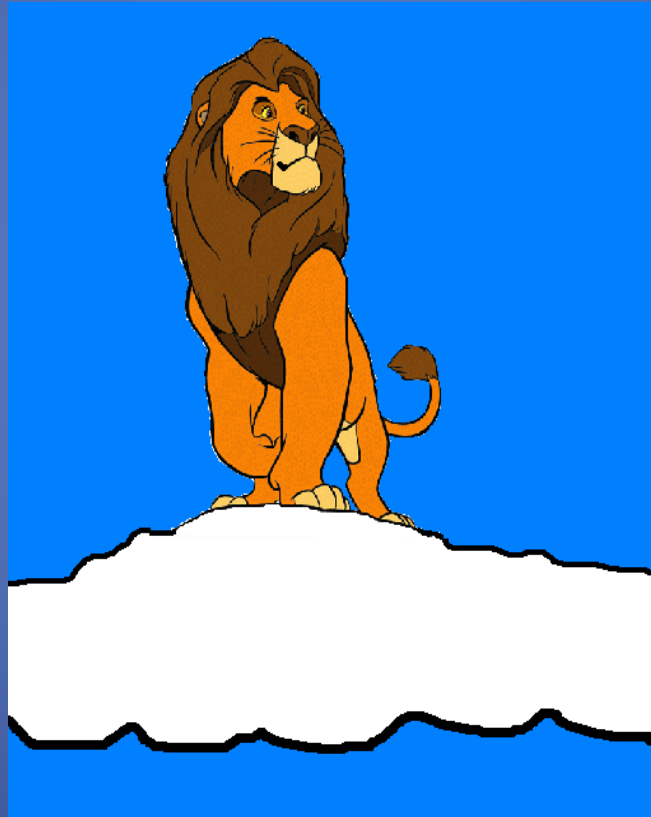
It was important to Eric to have checklists for his daily activities. So reading this social story was included on his checklist. For example, a portion of his list may have included:

- Lunch
- Free computer time
- Social story
- Gym

Including it on the checklist helped give Eric the structure he needed if he felt confused or anxious after reading the social story. Eric's parents opened the story and guided him to read it slowly. When the story was finished, Eric was given a few seconds to process, and if he seemed OK, his parents prompted him to check his schedule.

If Eric got upset, his parents were advised to console him as they would typically (squeezy hugs, rocking, etc.). If Eric asked for Kelly or indicated he was confused about her not being there, his parents used the same language that was used in the social story (Kelly went to heaven, etc.).

In the Lion King, Mufasa goes to heaven.



Simba couldn't see Mufasa anymore, but Mufasa's spirit looked after Simba.



Simba remembered all the good times with Mufasa and it made him happy again.



Eric's friend Kelly went to
heaven.



Insert
picture of
loved one
here

Eric can't see Kelly anymore, but
Kelly's spirit will look after Eric.



Eric will remember the trips to eat, to stores, going ice skating, and going to the movies.



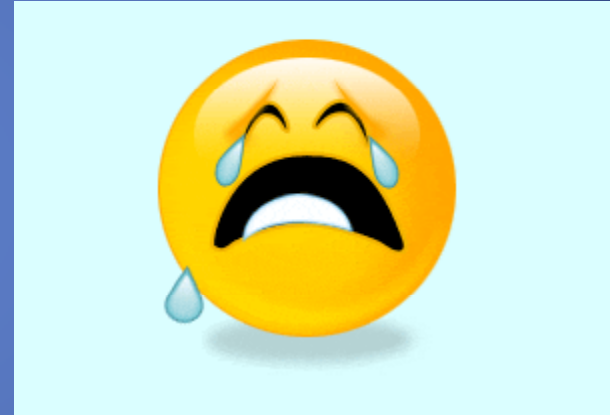
Eric will remember singing songs
and looking on the computer with
Kelly.



It makes Eric happy to remember these things.



When a friend goes to heaven
it is OK to feel sad.



It is OK to cry.

Sometimes after people cry
they feel better.



Eric will be happy again soon!