



Suicide in children

Alice Newton-Leeming

Mental Health Learning, England

Abstract

Although lesser heard of, and worldwide, very few statistics collect data on child suicide, children do and are dying by suicide. Children as young as 4 years of age. Although a child may not understand the word “suicide” or even that of the finality of death, it is more than possible for them to “not want to be here anymore”, and by ‘here’ they mean, to go on living. The way a child communicates this can often be misinterpreted and incorrectly labelled, and the child often receives punishment for their actions, rather than a supportive conversation about the feelings behind their behavior. But why are children this young, contemplating suicide? I propose to provide an insight into what steps should be taken to build resilient children with good mental health from their very birth.

Biography

Alice Newton-Leeming has worked and studied within the field of mental health and suicide prevention for over 12 years. Completing her psychology degree in 2011, she quickly moved into a role for a national Suicide Prevention Charity in the UK, and progressed to managing a national helpline and training team around the country, equipping individuals with life saving skills. She is a recognized Silver trainer in the internationally recognized Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training and is in the first UK cohort of trainers to provide the ASK workshop – Assessing Suicide Risk in Kids.