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MFT 603B: Individual and Family Development

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Chapter Presentation: Week 6

1. On pages 229-233 of “Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy” by J. William Worden, the death of parent is discussed in detail and how that effects a child. What I found interesting was how the reaction of a surviving parent can cause significant impact to the child. Most children who do not cope well with the loss tend to have a surviving parent who is depressed and unable to cope. On page 231, it discusses how the outcome of these children who have a depressed, grieving parent, grow up with low self-esteem and feel as if they have no control over their lives. This makes sense as the only structure they have left (e.g. the surviving parent) is unable to keep a routine going for the child and therefore leaves the child in a world of uncertain circumstances causing the child to feel fearful of what comes next.

2. Chapter 9 of “Journey Across the Life Span” by F.A. Davis talks about school aged children and the different parts of their development. What I found interesting in this chapter was the section on page 137 discussing whom children at this age group develop exaggerated fears. This is due in large parts to what they watch on television, movies and even life experiences that surround them such as the possibility of divorce and illnesses in the family. I have always heard about parental control on television and computers but I never thought about the effects certain exposures have on children. Their

imagination can run wild and something that seems harmless to adults can be devastating to a child and cause horrific nightmares.

3. In chapter 4 of “Grief and Loss Across a Lifespan” by Judith McCoyd discusses grief during the life period of elementary school children. The section on spirituality however was what caught my attention in this chapter. I found it interesting how the author explains that children from ages 6-11 actually find it comforting to have faith in God and to pray. They enjoy believing in something bigger than themselves as provided by research presented in the chapter. This further reinforces the Biblical passage of Jesus calling people to be more like little children. Their faith in God was pure and God wants us to feel the same way as these children do.