

An example of a simple communication tool for the school setting:

*Teachers often are confused about what works effectively to mitigate the disruptive class behavior of a child who has suffered a loss. A paper clip is a very inexpensive tool for this purpose. When a child can't contain his aggressive behavior, ask him to flag you with a paper clip that you have given him for this purpose. Tell him that you realize he might have good and bad days or times in class that might be worse for him than others. When he flags you, give him permission to go to the water fountain or visit the school nurse for a certain length of time. By allowing him to attract your attention and by giving him some "time out," you remind him that you're there for him and that you know life is tough. This simple therapy costs nothing but attention and sensitivity.*

*Talking With Children About Loss*

*By Maria Trozzi*