

Dear colleagues,

I've written an article, with contributions from several of you (thanks!). It's about the ways we need to talk differently with some of our kids with special needs about an event like the one in Connecticut last Friday. Or not talk about it.

<http://not-that-special.com/2012/12/16/talking-about-violence/>

Many of you are already prepared for the worried parents who will be coming in this week. They will be asking you about how to discuss an incomprehensible tragedy like this with their child who is highly sensitive, who has difficulty moderating his emotions, who is not a "big picture thinker," or whose strong emotions come out in physical expressions rather than words.

You'll have your own, well-informed perspectives to start with, and you may already be wading into these conversations. But if this article at least serves as a jumping off point for discussion amongst professionals, or can be used as a resource for organizing our thoughts and positions (agree or disagree), I'll be happy that I've done at least one little thing. As you'll see in the article, that is how I cope.

(If you're not a professional colleague, I've sent this to you figuring you know someone who could use it, so please pass it on.)

Best always,
Kelly

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