

In the Author's notes you will find that our beloved Bella passed away in 2021.

Children will want to know where Bella is today.

That's a hard one to answer after such a fun book.

You, being parents and teachers, I am sure have your own way of helping your kids with uncomfortable feelings when there is a loss in the family.

Here is what I plan to do in this situation. Book suggestions below.

RX Use as Needed.

When reading to kids and I am asked, "Where is Bella now? "

I will say she is here (hand on my heart), and then share that Bella passed away at 13 before this book was finished. I will pause and listen. The kids may need to talk a bit.

When the kids are ready, I will explain that before Bella passed away, she taught a puppy named "Maddox "how to be Kirk's new service dog. She taught him how to be kind, fun and helpful.

I will show the kids these photos with captions.

Bella Teaching Maddox.



Maddox practicing with treats!



Maddox working hard to learn!



"Bella telling Maddox, "You can do this!"



And he is!

I am hoping to teach our kids about the continuance of life – hard to face with loss – Yet, this truth is seen by the parting gifts (in memories or teachings) that those that pass away leave with us – whether they are two legged or four.

Helpful books for loss

Badgers Parting Gifts – Susan Varley

Lifetimes - Bryan Mellonie and Robert Ingpen