Abstract
More than 50,000 children mortalities are recorded in the U.S. each year. As a result, almost 8% of the population experience the loss of a brother or sister before age 25 (Jacobs & Bovasso, 2000). This study was an open conversational exchange with ten Grief Counselors who worked with school-aged children who had experienced the loss of a sibling in order to identify the behaviors and expressions of this group of Disenfranchised grievers. Three patterns were identified, they are: 1. Grief in children takes different forms, 2. Sibling loss in childhood is a life-changing event and 3. Childhood Grief has its own time. Each of the patterns were comprised of three themes. The themes of the first pattern were: Children’s grief differs, Wide variety of atypical behaviors and Developmental understandings of death. The themes for the second pattern were: Loss of a life-long companion, New normal in family unit Parents subsumed in grief. The themes for the third pattern were: Grieving periods in children, Anniversaries, birthdays and holidays and Loss follows a child throughout life. Based on this study, several changes were formulated for practice, research, education and policy that would benefit this population. It was concluded that early identification is the key to prevent mis-diagnosis and assist these children in their grief journey.

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