

Clay beads

Every person in a family or close relationship influences each other. Even when they are not all in the same place at the same time, people in a family or relationship are still connected with each other, and still a part of each other's lives. "Family" can include people who live very far away, people who have died, close friends or other important people.

Making beads offers a concrete way to remember each person's connection and impact on one another. As you make them, you can talk or think about your relationships. You can do this activity alone or with other people in your family, or close relationship with the person who died. Each person will make their own beads made up of different coloured pieces of clay that each represents a different person in your family or relationship.

Supplies

- String/cording to make a bracelet or necklace
- 1 toothpick
- Different colours of polymer clay cut into small pieces - one colour for each person in your family or relationship.

How to make it

Step 1: Choose colours

- Choose a different coloured piece of clay for each person in the family or relationship.

Step 2: Combine colours

- Think or talk about the person who died, and how you chose the colour for that person.
- As you think or talk about each person, squish the different colours of clay together to create one colourful bead. If you're doing this activity with others, notice how the colours look different in each bead, just like a family or relationship can feel different for each person. Our unique experience of our families or relationships are reflected in the uniqueness of each bead, and in our own fingerprints on these beads.
- When the colours have been combined, notice how they have blended together and cannot be taken apart again, just as family members and people in close relationships will always be part of one another.

Step 3: Make the bead

- Use the toothpick to poke a hole through each bead.
- Bake according to the instructions for the clay.
- When the beads have cooled, string them on the cord to make a bracelet, necklace, keychain or anything else you choose.

