

An illustration of a woman with dark hair, wearing a yellow dress with purple flowers and a purple scarf, walking hand-in-hand with a small toddler. The toddler is wearing a red and white striped shirt and green pants, holding a blue stuffed animal. They are walking on a path in a park-like setting with a large tree on the left and many yellow and orange leaves falling around them. The background is a light greenish-blue wash.

# Something Very Sad Happened

## A Toddler's Guide to Understanding Death

by Bonnie Zucker

illustrated by Kim Fleming



Something very sad happened.  
Grandma died.

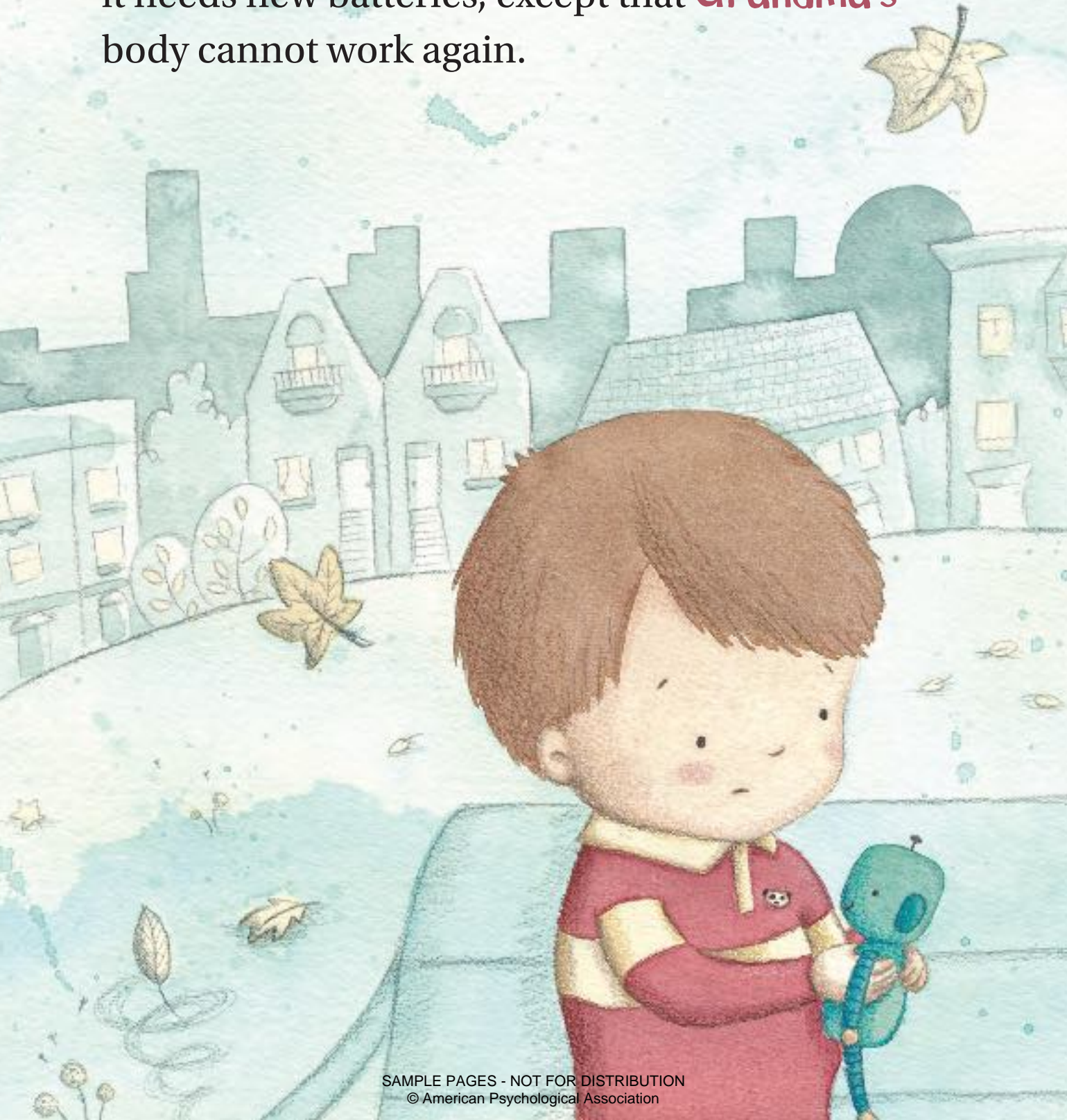


When someone dies, their body stops working.  
**Grandma's** body stopped working.





It is like when your toy stops working because it needs new batteries, except that **Grandma's** body cannot work again.



It's okay to feel sad or scared,  
and it's okay to cry.

**Mommy** may cry, too.









A watercolor illustration of a child with dark hair, wearing a yellow and purple striped shirt and purple pants, sitting on the ground with their back to the viewer. The child is looking up at a large tree with green leaves. Some leaves are falling around the child. The background is a light, textured green.

Children's/  
Grief/  
Mental Health  
Ages 2-3

**W**hen a loved one dies, it can be hard to know how to explain it to a young child, particularly if you are grieving the loss yourself.

Sensitively written and gently illustrated, *Something Very Sad Happened* explains death in developmentally appropriate terms for two- and three-year-old children. It reassures the child that it is okay to feel sad, and that love never dies.

Includes a **Note to Parents and Caregivers** with more information about how to talk about death, answer your child's questions, and maintain your connection throughout the grieving process.

**M**agination Press

Self-Help Books for Kids and the Adults in Their Lives  
Published by the American Psychological Association  
[www.apa.org/pubs/magination](http://www.apa.org/pubs/magination)

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