There are many non-fiction books to help children cope with death and grief. Look for these in the parent-teacher section under the call numbers j 155.937 P-T.

SELECTED TITLES:
The Goodbye Boat / Mary Joslin (j 155.937 Jos P-T)
The Purple Balloon / Chris Raschka (j 155.937 Ras P-T)

GRANDPARENTS
The Two of Them / Aliki (grandfather)
Fox Song / Joseph Bruchac (great-grandmother)
After the death of her Indian great-grandmother, Jamie remembers the many special things the old woman shared with her about the natural world.

The Bells of Santa Lucia / Gus Cazzola (grandmother)
After her grandmother dies, a little girl cannot stand the sound of bells until the good-hearted schoolmaster introduces her to some belled lambs.

My Grandfather’s House / Bruce Coville (grandfather)
When the child feels the cool, smooth fingers of his dead grandfather, he finally understands that Grandpa no longer lives in the house which was his body. (j 155.937 Cov P-T)

Turtle Girl / Carole Crowe (grandmother)
As her grandmother taught her, Magdalena continues to protect the sea turtles that nest near her home even after Grandma’s death.

Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs / Tomie DePaola (grandmother and great-grandmother)
Four-year-old Tommy enjoys his relationship with both his grandmother and great-grandmother, but eventually learns to face their inevitable death.

The Hickory Chair / Lisa Fraustino (grandmother)
A blind boy tells of his warm relationship with his grandmother and the gift she left for him after her death.

Bluebird Summer / Deborah Hopkinson (grandmother)
Gramps’s farm isn’t the same after Grandma’s death, but slowly Mags and Cody work to recreate her spirit by bringing back some of the things she loved.
Kaddish for Grandpa in Jesus’ Name, Amen / James Howe (grandfather)
Five-year-old Emily tries to understand her grandfather’s death by exploring the Christian and Jewish rituals that her family practices during and after his funeral.

Ghost Wings / Barbara Joose (grandmother)
While celebrating the Days of the Dead, a young Mexican girl remembers her wonderful grandmother who sang, made tortillas, chased monsters away, and loved butterflies.

Fireflies, Peach Pies, and Lullabies / Virginia Kroll (great-grandmother)
When Francie’s Great-Grammy Annabel dies of Alzheimer’s disease, Francie finds a way to help people remember the real person rather than the shell she had become as the disease ran its course.

A Gift for Abuelita: Celebrating the Day of the Dead / Nancy Luenn (grandmother)
After her beloved grandmother dies, Rosita hopes to be reunited with Abuelita as she prepares a gift to give her when her family celebrates the Day of the Dead.

The Wishing Tree / Roseanne Thong (grandmother)
Ming’s wishes at the tree on Lunar New Year with his grandmother always seemed to come true, but one year the tree does not help, and he alone must make peace with the loss of his grandmother and the spirit of the tree.

Looking for Atlantis / Colin Thompson (grandfather)
After his grandfather’s death, a young boy learns to see the wonders of the world through the old man’s eyes.

Old Pig / Margaret Wild (grandmother)
Because Old Pig knows that her time to die is near, she puts her affairs in order and takes a slow walk with Granddaughter to savor the beauty for one last time.

Grandad’s Prayers of the Earth / Douglas Wood (grandfather)
Because Grandad has explained how all things in the natural world pray and make a gift to the beauty of life, his grandson is comforted when Grandad dies.

My Grandson Lew / Charlotte Zolotow (grandfather)

PARENTS

Everett Anderson’s Goodbye / Lucille Clifton (father)
Everett Anderson has a difficult time coming to terms with his grief after his father dies.

Missing Mommy / Rebecca Cobb (mother)
Daddy comforts and reassures a very young boy after Mommy dies. (j 155.937 COB P-T)

The Scar / Charlotte Moundlic (mother)
When his mother dies, a little boy is angry at his loss but does everything he can to hold onto the memory of her scent, her voice, and the special things she did for him, even as he tries to help his father and grandmother cope. (j 155.937 Mou P-T)

OTHER RELATIVES/FRIENDS

I Had a Friend Named Peter / Janice Cohen (friend)
When Betsy learns about the death of a friend, her parents and kindergarten teacher answer questions about dying, funerals, and the burial process. (j 155.937 Coh P-T)

Ben’s Flying Flowers / Inger Maier (brother)
Emily introduces her younger brother, Ben, to butterflies, which he calls ‘flying flowers,’ and when his illness makes him too weak to go see them she draws him pictures, but after his death she no longer wants to draw happy things. (j 155.937 MAI P-T)

Stacy Had a Little Sister / Wendie C. Old (baby sister)
Stacy has mixed feelings about her new sister Ashley, but when the baby dies of sudden infant death syndrome, Stacy is sad and misses her. (j 155.937 Old P-T)

PETs

Up in Heaven / Emma Clark (dog)

The Forever Dog / Bill Cochran (dog)

Jim’s Dog Muffins / Miriam Cohen (dog)

Saying Goodbye to Lulu / Corinne Demas (dog)

A Dog Like Jack / DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan (dog)  

Tough Boris / Mem Fox (parrot)

The Bug Cemetery / Frances Hill (pet)

Six is So Much Less than Seven / Ronald Himler (cat)

Better With Two / Barbara Joose (pet)

Ada’s Pal / George Ella Lyon (dog)

The Best Cat in the World / Lesléa Newman (cat)

When a Pet Dies / Fred Rogers (pet)

Ricky and the Squirrel / Guido van Genechten (wild animal)

The Tenth Good Thing About Barney / Judith Viorst (pet)