

**Framing the Conversation**

In FFY2021, \_\_\_\_\_ children in the United States were living in foster care.  
On average, \_\_\_\_\_ children are removed from their homes and enter foster care every year.

**Ambiguity in the Foster Care System**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ambiguity: A lack of clarity about \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ambiguity: A lack of clarity about \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ambiguity: A lack of clarity about \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ambiguity: A lack of clarity about \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ambiguity: A lack of clarity about \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ambiguity: A lack of clarity about \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ambiguous Loss (Boss 1999, 2006): A lack of clarity about \_\_\_\_\_.

**Recommendations for Mitigating Ambiguity for Youth in Foster Care**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



## Therapeutic Interventions for Ambiguous Loss and Grief Among Youth in Foster Care

A Home Within: Continuing Education Event (5/23/22)

Dr. Monique B. Mitchell

### References

Boss, P. (1999). *Ambiguous loss. Learning to live with unresolved grief*. Harvard University Press.

Boss, P. (2006). *Loss, trauma, and resilience: Therapeutic work with ambiguous loss*. W.W. Norton and Company, Inc.

Mitchell, M. B. (2016). *The neglected transition: Building a relational home for children entering foster care*. Oxford University Press.

Mitchell, M. B. (2017). "No one acknowledged my loss and hurt": Non-death loss, grief, and trauma in foster care. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 35,1-9. doi: 10.1007/s10560-017-0502-8

Mitchell, M. B. (2017). *Living in an inspired world: Voices and visions of youth in foster care*. Child Welfare League of America Press.

Mitchell, M. B., Schuurman, D. L., Shapiro, C. J., Sattler, S., Sorensen, C., & Martinez, J. (2022). The L.Y.G.H.T. program: An evaluation of a peer grief support intervention for youth in foster care. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-022-00843-7>

Schuurman, D. L. & Mitchell, M. B. (2022). *Being grief-informed: From understanding to action*. Dougy Center: The National Grief Center for Children & Families.

Schuurman, D. L. & Mitchell, M. B. (2020). *Becoming grief-informed: A call to action*. Dougy Center: The National Grief Center for Children & Families.