

Do children have NDEs?

Yes. Our best research so far indicates that about 85% of children who experience cardiac arrest have an NDE. With improving cardiac resuscitation techniques, more and more children are surviving cardiac arrest. More children who have had NDEs are alive today than ever before, and the number is likely to increase because of improved resuscitative techniques. Apparently, youngsters of any age can have an NDE. Very young children, as soon as they are able to speak, have reported NDEs they had as infants or in the process of being born.

What types of NDEs do children have?

P.M.H. Atwater studied over 270 child NDErs. She found that:

- 76% reported a comforting "initial" experience. Such experiences involved up to three elements, things like a loving nothingness, a friendly voice, a visitation by a loving being, an out-of-body experience, and/or the peacefulness of either a safe light or safe dark place
- 19% reported a pleasurable or heaven-like experience
- 3% reported a distressing or hell-like experience
- 2% had a "transcendent" experience in which they felt they acquired special knowledge.

Following is an example of the most commonly reported type of childhood NDE, the "initial" experience. In an episode of meningitis,

a six-year old reported being out of her body with a sense of being completely free of pain and totally surrounded by love. She reported feeling like a soul neither boy nor girl, neither grown-up nor child. She felt a sense of absolute peace and completeness. When she looked down, she saw a girl lying in bed and empathized with her pain. On reflection, she realized she must be that girl, and with that thought, she was back in her body.

How do children's NDEs compare to adults' NDEs?

The same features reported by adult NDErs have been reported also by child NDErs. However, by comparison to adults' NDEs, children's NDEs:

- tend to include fewer features
- tend to be more concrete and less complex than those of adults. However, children can have complex experiences, including features such as otherworldly scenery and a life review
- more often include visitation by a deceased pet or other animal, relatives unknown to the child, and occasionally people who are alive.

<http://www.soulsurvivor-book.com/index.html>

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