**Infant Loss Case Study**

**Kelly is a 2 month-old born to her parents, Shawn and Lori. The mother had a premature rupture of membranes and delivered Kelly at 26 weeks gestation. Kelly was kept alive by life support. Kelly’s condition is extremely critical with her weight at 700 grams. You know that when infants are this small and their condition critical, any amount of touch can be extremely stressful to their bodies. The mother has been pumping and freezing breast milk for future use. The parents are encouraged to assist the nurse in any way they can, but they are not able to touch Kelly. The parents have been educated about how critical Kelly’s condition is and the machines and medications being used. They still have confusion and uncertainty about the situation. The grandparents have been helping care for Roseanne, Kelly’s 7-year-old sister, and she has visited her sister once. The parents are at the hospital frequently. Recently, Kelly gained weight and started to show an increase in activity. The parents thought this could be a positive sign, but the nurse explained that the weight gain was from swelling, and the increased activity was from agitation as Kelly struggled to breathe. When the parents were at the bedside, Kelly started to become cyanotic, and her oxygen saturation level dropped to the 60s. Several nurses, doctors, and respiratory therapists tried to save her, but were unsuccessful. This was an extremely devastating loss to all the medical personnel and family involved.**

**1. What are some of the stressors Kelly experienced while in the hospital?**

**2. What are the stages of grief a family is likely to experience with Kelly’s situation?**

**3. What are some of the strategies that can be used when helping Kelly’s sibling deal with the loss of her sister?**

**4. What are some of the strategies for helping Kelly’s parents deal with losing her?**