

Children can place almost any flower on a parent's casket, from a single rose to a small bunch of garden blooms. The most meaningful choice may be a flower the parent loved, one the child likes, or one that feels right to the family.

Choosing flowers together

There is no single flower that children must choose. A favorite color can be a starting point, as can a flower from the family garden or one the parent enjoyed seeing. A child might also want to choose a flower simply because it looks beautiful.

Keep the decision simple if a child feels overwhelmed. Offering two or three choices gives them room to decide without asking too much of them. It is also fine for an adult to choose the flowers and invite the child to take part in placing them.

Flowers to consider

One stem can be as touching as a larger arrangement. These flowers are all possible choices for a child to carry or place on a casket:

- **Roses:** A familiar choice, available in many colors. Ask an adult to remove the thorns first.
- **Carnations:** Sturdy flowers with soft, ruffled petals that are easy to hold by the stem.
- **Daisies:** A simple choice that may appeal to children who like their bright, open faces.
- **Tulips:** Smooth stems and cup-shaped blooms make these a simple option.
- **Garden flowers:** A bloom from home can feel especially personal if it reminds the child of their parent.

Preparing a flower for small hands

Choose a stem that is comfortable to hold. An adult can trim it, remove thorns or prickly leaves, and check for anything sharp. A ribbon tied around a few stems can help keep a small bunch together, though a single flower needs no wrapping.

If the flower will be placed directly on the casket, ask the funeral director about any arrangements already in place. There may be a clear space for it, or the director can suggest a suitable spot. They can also explain what will happen to the flowers after the service.

Helping a child take part

Tell the child in advance what will happen and who can walk with them. They might place the flower during the service, before guests arrive, or at another moment agreed with the family and funeral director.

Give them permission to change their mind. A child can hold the flower, ask someone else to place it, or decide not to take part. None of these choices says anything about how much they loved their parent.

Questions families often ask

Can a child place a flower on a closed casket?

Often, yes. Check with the funeral director first so they can help find an appropriate time and place.

Can a child add a note to the flower?

A short note or drawing can make the tribute personal. Ask the funeral director where it can be placed and what will happen to it afterward.

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