Children, ages 6-10 - From the time children enter school, they are apt to worry about the safety of their world. They will not believe you if you say, “No, this could never happen here.” However you can and must offer them perspective.

School age children may ask for details that make us uncomfortable. They are trying their best to sort out something that is beyond their capacity to understand. Ask them what they know already? What they are thinking and feeling? Your reassurance that although a terrible thing occurred in a school like their own, you believe that they are safe and that their schools are safe and it's your job to keep them safe.

e.g. We know (and they know) that accidents occur. That’s why we wear seat belts and bike helmets. Yet, we still get into cars and we still ride bikes. It’s the same with school safety. For this school in this town, yesterday, some of the children and adults were NOT safe; however, it’s very, very very rare for this kind of violence to occur. (It’s hard to remember that when faced with this tragedy, but it is true.)

Children (and families) already struggling with a stressor such as a family illness or loss may be more vulnerable to symptoms of stress; e.g. trouble sleeping, eating, clinging behaviors, nightmares, stomach aches, headaches. Be aware of it and know that that’s normal. If symptoms don't abate with time, consult your pediatrician.