

Family Violence in a Child's World

Understanding, Helping, Healing



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A voice for young children

EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2018

BE THE DIFFERENCE
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Introduction

UMFC is a not for profit organisation based in the North East of Victoria helping people from all walks of life – from advice on early childhood development through to support for older people and their carers, with many options in between.



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The Child & Family Safety Team (CFST) is part of the larger Child & Family Services program within UMFC which delivers child led practise to vulnerable families.

The aim of the CFST is to provide children who have experienced Family Violence a voice in their own safety and recovery process through:

- Child led safety planning
- Family repair work
- Community and family capacity building



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Why the workshop was developed

The program's aim is to ensure that the child's voice and experiences within family violence are not only seen and heard but children themselves are supported by those who are playing a key caring role in their lives.

Early Years professionals are vital for young children who have experienced trauma due to the support they can provide on a daily basis.



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Why the workshop was developed? con't

Experiences in the first years of a child's life shape the way their brains develop and the way they see themselves and the world around them. This makes positive early interactions and supportive relationships incredibly important for children.



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What is Family Violence

Behaviour by a person towards a family member that includes:

- Causing or threatening Physically or sexually abusive – including to animals
- Emotionally or psychologically abusive
- Threatening, coercive, controls or dominates causing someone to feel fear for their safety or wellbeing
- Damaging property
- Unlawfully depriving a family member of their liberty
- Behaviour that causes a child to hear, witness or be exposed to the effects of the behaviour



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How Widespread is Family Violence?



* Australian Bureau of Statistics, Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2012, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.



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Children's perspective of domestic violence

(Moving Beyond Violence - Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region)



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What is the workshop?

Family Violence in a Child's World helps participants:

- Understand what it is like for children and their parents to live in a home where family violence is present.
- Learn how to create opportunities for children to tell their story, what they need and how we can support them.



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What is the workshop? con't

- Be challenged about their own beliefs and judgements through conversations about why we react or make decisions. How do values and belief systems influence work with children?
- Gain confidence and develop child focussed ways of talking with parents about your worries.

“

“We think we listen, but very rarely do we listen with real understanding, true empathy. Yet listening, of this very special kind, is one of the most potent forces for change that I know.”

Carl Rogers

”



PsychologyQuotes.au



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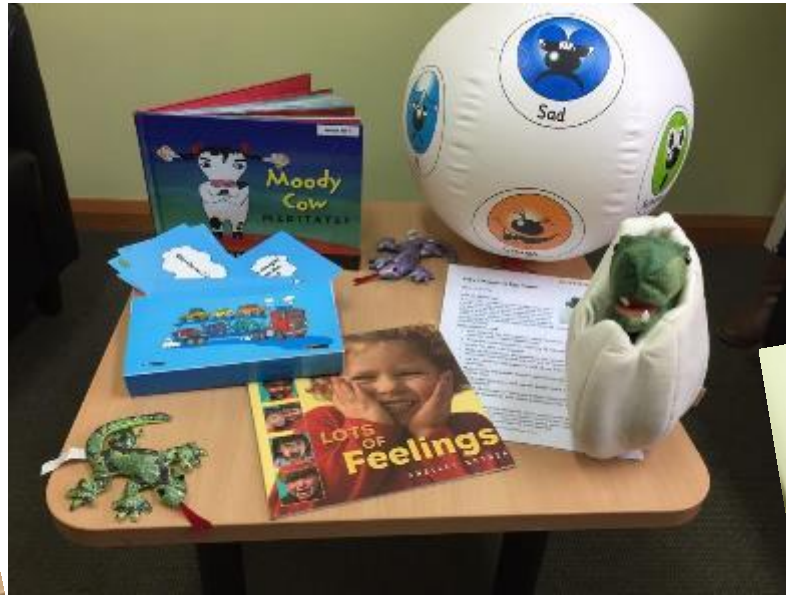
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Resources



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That's Not My Job!

This is a story about four people named: **Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Someone** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up everybody blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.



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