# A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS GUIDE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Developed by Monaghan and Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committees



MY NAME IS:

MY ADDRESS IS:

THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE WITH ME ARE:



I LOVE TO PLAY AND HAVE FUN. DRAW SOME OF THE THINGS YOU LOVE TO DO HERE...



I HAVE LOTS OF PEOPLE IN MY LIFE LIKE MY FAMILY, TEACHERS, AND FRIENDS. DRAW SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE HERE...



### THERE ARE PEOPLE IN MY LIFE WHO MAKE ME FEEL SAFE. THEY ARE....



### SOMETIMES PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES MAKE US FEEL UNSAFE.

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE LIKE THAT THEN IT'S IMPORTANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT LIKE A PARENT, TEACHER, AUNT, UNCLE, SUPPORT WORKER, HELPLINE

OR

#### ANYONE WHO YOU TRUST AND WHO KNOWS YOU.



TALKING ALWAYS MAKES US STRONGER AND HELPS US TO LEARN NEW THINGS.



TELLING SOMEONE YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE IS A GOOD IDEA SO THAT THEY CAN HELP YOU PLAN TO KEEP SAFE! A SAFE PLAN IS WHERE YOU GET TO DECIDE HOW TO HELP YOURSELF TO KEEP YOURSELF SAFE.

> IF YOU ARE FEELING SCARED, IF YOU HEAR OR SEE ADULTS FIGHTING



OR IF YOU FIND YOURSELF FEELING SAD. THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS THAT CAN GO IN YOUR SAFE PLAN LIKE....

- I CAN THINK ABOUT A CALM, SAFE PLACE
- I CAN HUG MY FAVOURITE TEDDY REAL TIGHT
- I CAN BREATHE CALM FEELINGS INTO MY BELLY
- I CAN GO TO MY SAFE PLACE
- I CAN TELL SOMEONE

IMAGINE A CALM AND SAFE PLACE. DRAW WHAT THAT WOULD LOOK LIKE HERE...



### OTHER IDEAS TO HELP ME FEEL BETTER AND CALM DOWN COULD BE..



### DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR FAVOURITE TEDDY OR DOLLY.

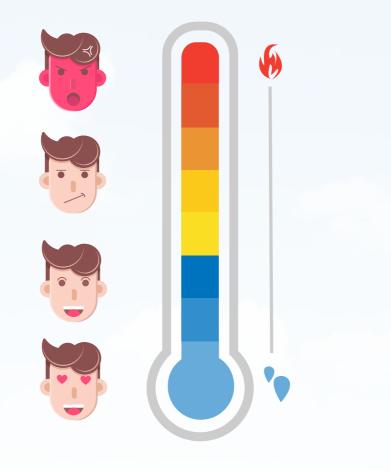
WHAT SONG OR STORY WOULD YOU WHISPER TO THEM IF THEY WERE FEELING SCARED?



### DO YOU EVER FEEL ANGRY?

## IT IS OK TO FEEL ANGRY, SAD OR SCARED SOMETIMES, IF YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY IS BEING HURT.

WHAT MAKES YOU ANGRY, SAD OR SCARED?



THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT WAYS THAT WE CAN CONTROL OUR ANGER.

Belly breathing helps us when we are angry and if we are scared.

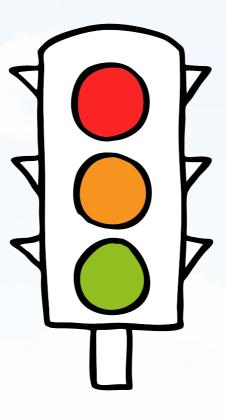


### IMAGINE YOU ARE A TRAFFIC LIGHT!

RED - STOP!

ORANGE – THINK! Why am I angry? What am I about to do? What will happen next?

GREEN - GO! Find a better way to express your anger



THINK BACK TO WHEN WE FIRST STARTED THIS BOOK AND WE TALKED ABOUT WHO WE FEEL SAFE WITH.

## ARE THESE THE PEOPLE THAT YOU WOULD TELL IF YOU WERE FEELING SCARED?

### IS THERE ANYONE ELSE YOU CAN TALK TO?



SOME IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER ARE THAT ALL FAMILIES ARGUE, BUT WHEN IT IS MORE SERIOUS, YOU NEED TO USE YOUR SAFETY PLAN.

don't get involved in the fight, AS you might get hurt, AND go to your safe place.

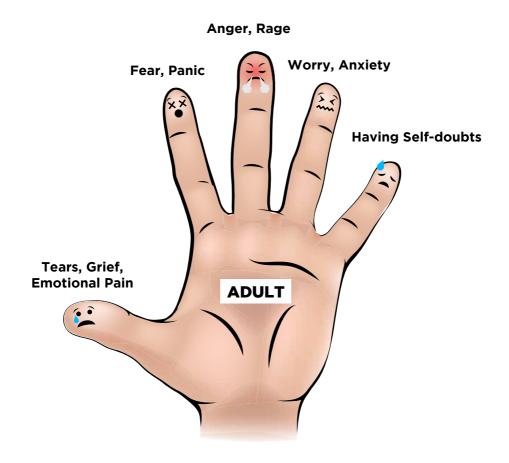
THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO CAN HELP.

If you need help right away in an emergency call the **Gardai on 999** 

If you ever feel sad or angry and you need to talk to someone you can call **Childline - 1800 66 66 66** or text to 50101.

#### **Fingerhold Practice for Managing Emotions and Stress**

Practicing fingerholds can help to manage emotions and stress. Hold each finger, in turn, with the other hand, holding for as long as it feels comfortable. Hold gently, but firmly. As you hold your finger, breathe in a way that feels comfortable. Many adults feel relief after 2-5 minutes per finger, and children often need to hold their fingers for much less time (30 sec. – 1 min.) for it to feel useful. You can work with either hand, and you can also work with just one or two fingers if that feels most helpful (or you don't have a lot of time).



Thumb - Tears, Grief, Emotional Pain, Feeling Upset
Pointer/Index Finger - Fear, Panic, Feeling Scared
Middle Finger - Anger, Rage, Resentment, Feeling Mad
Ring Finger - Worry, Anxiety
Little Finger - Having Self-Doubts, Not Feeling Good About Ourselves or Feeling Bad



Adapted from the Capacitar Emergency Response Tool Kit by Monaghan & Cavan CYSC with kind permission from Patricia Mathes Cane Ph.D. www.capacitar.org



### A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS GUIDE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Developed by Monaghan and Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committees

