



Barnardos

Because childhood lasts a lifetime

RESPONDING TO CHILDHOOD
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

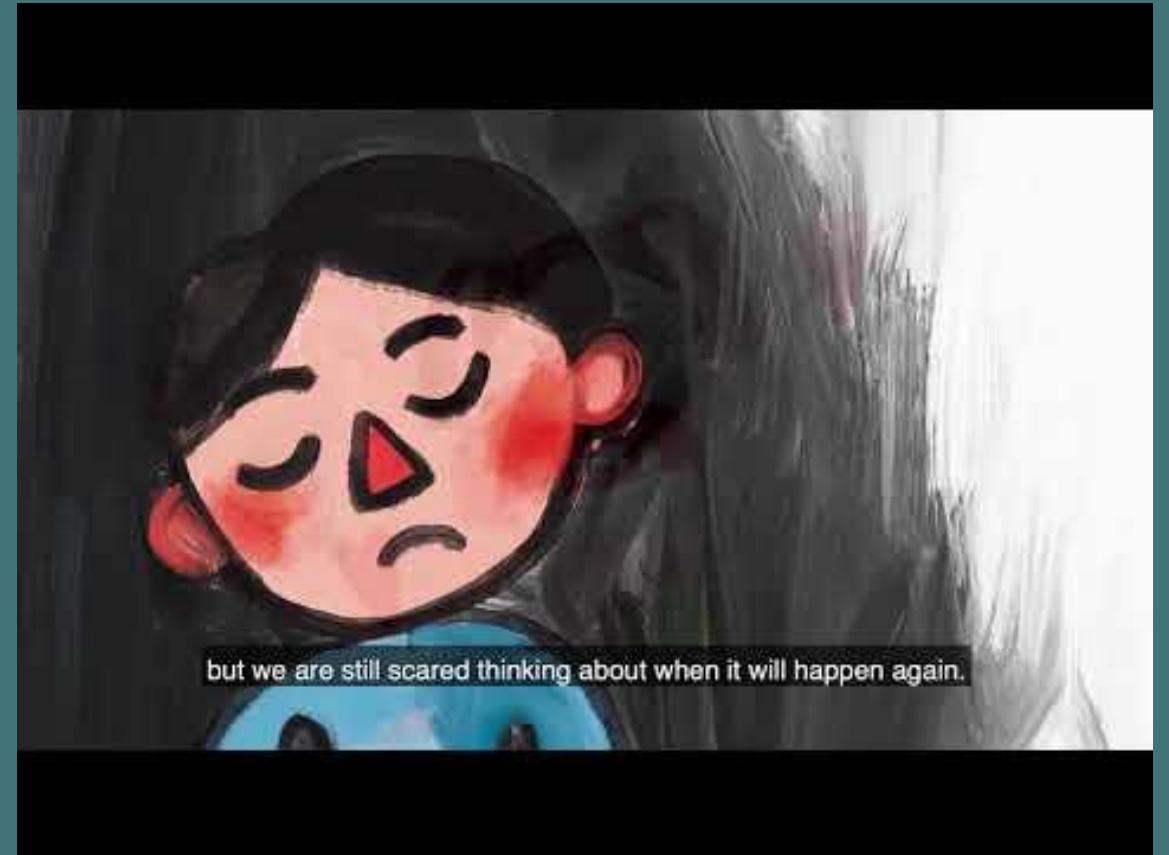
Childhood Domestic Violence and Abuse Project

- The overall purpose of the National Childhood Domestic Abuse Project is to assist in increasing the visibility of childhood domestic abuse;
- To support a collective and collaborative approach to identifying the needs of children; and to delivering effective services in response.



WHAT
CHILDREN
SAY ABOUT:

LIVING WITH
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
AND ABUSE



A shared understanding of childhood domestic violence and abuse... 2 year process



Get a copy of the shared understanding of CDVA



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A Shared Understanding of Childhood Domestic Violence and Abuse

AUGUST 2021

Authors

Barnardos Childhood Domestic Violence and Abuse Project facilitated an engagement process involving:
National Advisory Group, Community of Practice and Children's Participation Project.

CDVA Community of practice



June 2019

- Setting the scene..
- Keynote: Sarah Morton

Nov 2019

- Defining children's experiences
- Keynote: Steph Holt

March 2020

- Responses to children
- 3 service inputs: safe ireland & 2 DV services

Nov. 2020

- Children's voices
- Keynote: Claire Houghton

Apr. 2021

- Engaging fathers
- Dermot Brady: Kingston university: DV & fathering

Nov 2021

- Childrens rights in context of CDVA
- Anne Marie Millar

TLC KIDZ INTRO





TLC KIDZ PROGRAMME

12-week group programme for children and their mothers recovering from domestic abuse.

Suitable for children aged 5-16 years

Child and mother groups are run concurrently.

Evaluated in Canada, England, Scotland and now Ireland.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Free from violence and abuse
- Focus on safety and well-being
- Encourage inclusion & diversity
- Women feel respected for their ability to make positive decisions
- Acknowledge that women are disproportionately affected by DVA
- Nurturing, non-judgmental and well-informed
- Researched & Evaluated to ensure effective, quality service





12-WEEK GROUP WORK PROGRAMME

Mothers and
Children complete
the same theme
each week.

Mothers group is in
advance of
children's group.

Mothers are
prepared to support
their children each
week.

8 Children per
group - aged
within 2 years
apart.

2 facilitators per
group from core
local area agencies

Closed group.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Separation has occurred

Child has experienced DVA.

Child is able to name that hurting or fighting has taken place in their family.

Voluntary

Siblings not recommended

Children may participate in the programme whether their mothers choose to participate or not



PROGRAMME CONTENT

Breaking the Silence

Processing Experiences

Managing Emotions

Understanding Responsibility

Safety Planning including online.

Sexual Abuse Safety

Problem Solving

Self Esteem

Fun Activities



WHAT A SESSION LOOKS LIKE...

Check in

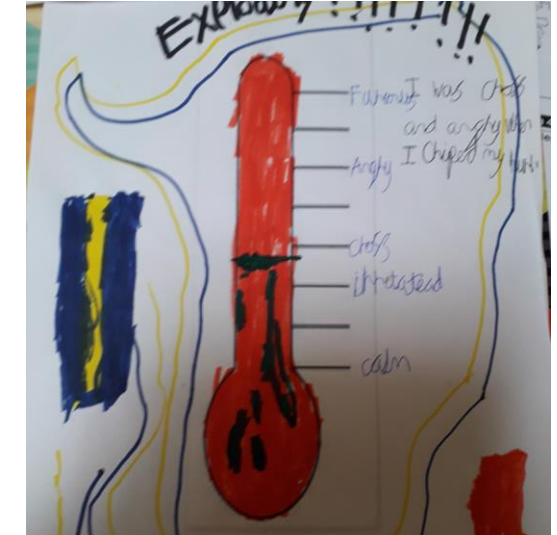
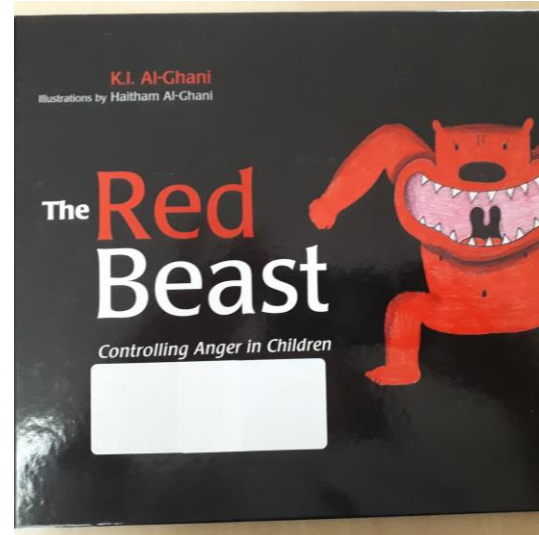
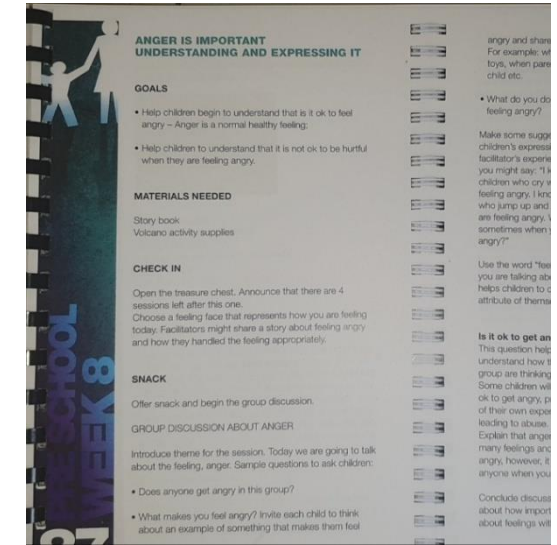
Group Discussion

Group Activity

Snack

Free time

Check out





INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

Collaboration is the absolute
key to success



Having community buy in that
demonstrates support and
partnerships is essential to
sustaining a healthy programme
and maximising resources



Steering Group



Facilitators



Referral Pathways



Group
Supervision

INTERAGENCY STRUCTURE



INTERAGENCY AIMS

- **RAISE** awareness of DVA and its impact on children
- **INCREASE** knowledge and skills
- **CREATE** an ethos of shared responsibility
- **ENHANCE** communication and interagency relationships
- **CASE** consultation and interagency working



EVALUATING THE PROGRAMME

- **Breaking the Silence** and isolation regarding domestic abuse
- Appropriate **expression and regulation of difficult emotions**
- Understanding of acceptable and unacceptable **behaviours**
- Knowing how to **keep safe**
- Warm open **mother /child** relationships
- Improved child confidence in **peer and family interactions** and improved coping skills.

WHAT KIDZ HAD TO SAY...



"We weren't the only ones, going to school every day, coming home thinking we're the only family like this." (12 year old)



"I was upset a lot of the time when I was in school so it helped me get over it." (12 year old girl)



"I am more open to Mum because if I am scared or angry I would tell her now but before I wouldn't." (10 year old girl)

WHAT MOTHERS HAD TO SAY...

"It made me broaden my skills
as a parent, as opposed to
just looking at it from my own
point of view, more aware of
what was going on with them."
(Mother of 12 year old boy)



"I went off and did a
childcare course after, it
brought me back into
doing something that I
like doing."
(Mother of 11 year old boy)





COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

- Greater **family participation** in school, social and community activities
- Mothers accessing **educational programmes** or seeking employment
- Improvement in **child health and wellbeing** – reducing utilization of GP and other services

NATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR TLC KIDZ PROJECTS

9 project sites in
operation

CDVA project:
Technical support
& Guidance

TLC KIDZ Coord
Forum

National training
of facilitators:
Free to local
project areas

CDVA
Community of
Practice



ANY QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME