



Safe  
from the  
Start



# Safe from the Start



Presented by Margaret MacDonald  
with Liesl Taylor



# Safe from the Start

## Introduction to the Project



The project is based on recommendations from a Tasmanian research study "States of Mind" commissioned by The Salvation Army and funded by both State and Federal governments. It was conducted in 2006 by Dr. Erica Bell, University of Tasmania, Department of Rural Health.



- Its aim was to consider the needs of Children 0-5 affected by family and domestic violence.
- Pages 52-54 of the report suggest models of best practise which include:



- group work *including with mothers*
- play therapy: *games, puppets, soft toys*
- visual arts: *drawing, painting*
- creative arts: *music, dance and movement*



cognitive and educational strategies  
*such as storytelling and books*

- family therapy as well as specific  
therapies *that are client and child-*  
*focussed.*

- prevention programs



# Safe from the Start



Compiled from notes by  
Dr Angela Spinney



# Background



- Project was initiated by The Salvation Army (TSA)
- Funded by Commonwealth Office for Women - Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault Initiative 2007/2008
- Project has 2 main sections -
  - research on best therapeutic tools to use
  - training on completed resource kit
- Dr Angela Spinney employed as project officer
- Evaluation of project by University of Tasmania
- Formal launch in August 2008



# Aims and Objectives



- In relation to children aged up to 6 affected by Domestic and Family Violence to:
  - Identify key elements of best practice
  - Trial various therapeutic products
  - Compile a kit from the products
  - Train children's service workers to work with the resources
  - Have project evaluated with longitudinal study
  - Conduct further research at National level?



# Outcomes



- Outcomes of resources kit and training include:
  - Needs of children aged 0-6 identified
  - Parents, community and services
  - Services informed
  - Distribution of children's activities and information
  - Training developed focussing on children aged 0-6
  - A research report for application Australia wide



# Trial Methodology



- 41 different materials and resources collected
- Jan/Feb 2008 resources trialled and assessed by 9 organisations in Tasmania
- Questionnaires completed by parents, children and workers
- Dr Spinney conducted interviews with workers
- Data collated
- A Tool kit of 24 resource materials was compiled



# Members of Reference Group - Southern Tasmania



- Angela Spinney                      Safe from the Start Research Project Officer
- Nell Kuilenburg                      Salvation Army Tasmania
- Sylvia Eilermann                      Salvation Army Tasmania
- Rachel Collins                      Salvation Army Tasmania
- Cath                                      Hobart Womens Shelter
- Tanya Castle-Phillips                  Early Support Child Protection
- Jayne Cowley                      Centacare
- Paula Benz                              Centacare
- Wendy Cronk                      Family Pathways
- Jacinta Atkins                      Centacare
- Diane Burton                      McCombe House
- Sandra Nichols                      Jireh House



# Members of Reference Group - Northern Tasmania



- Angela Spinney      Safe from the Start Research Project Officer
- Maz Arnold          Magnolia Place (Launceston Women's Shelter)
- Allison Carpenter    Magnolia Place (Launceston Women's Shelter)
- Deidre Butler        Oakleigh Accommodation Burnie
- Carmen                CHYPP
- Liz Kriel              CTSS Centacare CHILD
- Rachel Lucas         CHYPP
- Mim Domanska        CTSS Centacare



- As a result of the work put in a kit of strength based resources for use when working with parents with young children aged 0-6 affected by violence in the relationships of their parents.



- These have been researched, tested and developed into a transportable program that can be used by parents, teachers and workers in government and non-government sectors



- The kit comprises:
- Books,
- Songs
- Stickers
- puppets



It contains a manual explaining

- how to use each resource
- relevant age groups which go up to 12 years
- Suggested ways to interact with children



Each kit costs \$550 and order forms  
today or contact me

[Margaret.MacDonald@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Margaret.MacDonald@aus.salvationarmy.org)

Replacements for the kit can be  
obtained from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or any  
bookseller



# Examples



Questions?