



IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICE



Listening to children's stories of domestic violence to improve service responses in CALD communities



Child Aware Approaches Conference 2017

16 May 2017

Ana Alvarez & Hayley Rideout

“A child who lives with violence is forever changed, but not forever damaged”.

(Cunningham & Baker, 2007)



Cunningham, A. & Baker, L. (2007). Little eyes, little ears. How violence against a mother shapes children as they grow. Retrieved from http://www.lfcc.on.ca/little_eyes_little_ears.pdf

OVERVIEW

- Impact of domestic and family violence on children
- Additional issues for CALD children
- Overview of Immigrant Women's Support Service
- Honours literature review
- Children's support project and learnings
- Animation & online resources
- Discussion & Questions

IMPACT OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN



- Physical
- Psychological
- Emotional
- Social
- Behavioral
- Developmental, and
- Cognitive well being and functioning.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES FOR CALD CHILDREN

Children of cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds are at the intersection of multiple points of vulnerability

IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICE (IWSS)

IWSS
provides
support to
immigrant
and refugee
women and
their children



CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING WOMEN SUPPORTED BY IWSS

- 2015 – 2016: **534** children accompanied 365 women
- 2014 – 2015: **584** children accompanied 459 women
- 2013 – 2014: **526** children accompanied 597 women
- 2012 – 2013: **441** children accompanied 539 women

Source: Immigrant Women's Support Service Annual Reports (2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016)



CHILDREN'S PLAY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REFUGES: A LITERATURE REVIEW

Systematic Quantitative Literature Review

Theoretical Frameworks: Childhood Sociology & Children's Rights Perspectives

Children need to be consulted on experiences of domestic and family violence

LITERATURE REVIEW CONT. KEY FINDINGS



- ❑ Limited amount of literature from children's perspectives
- ❑ Limited amount of literature addressing vulnerable groups
- ❑ Mother/Child relationship presented as intervention
- ❑ Play and play therapy commonly recommended for interventions
- ❑ Need for more spaces to play

LITERATURE REVIEW CONT. RECOMMENDATIONS



- Further research from children's perspective
- Play as an intervention
- Safety is paramount to recovery
- Need for dedicated child support workers

INCORPORATING LITERATURE REVIEW ON CHILDREN'S SUPPORT PROJECT



CHILDREN'S SUPPORT PROJECT

- Focus: young children affected by domestic and family violence
- Aims:
 - enhance women's capacity to support their child/ren
 - assist children to communicate with their mum's about their experience and needs

LEARNINGS FROM THE PROJECT

- Women asked for concise and easy to read information
- Children very stoic in their messages to other children
- Women and children need to feel safe to share their stories
- Women and children are willing to share their stories to help others





HOW TO ACCESS IWSS?



Monday to Friday
9am – 4pm
Phone: (07) 3846 3490
www.iwss.org.au

After hours

- DVConnect Womensline 1800 811 811 (24 hrs / 7 days)
- Sexual Assault Helpline 1800 010 120 (7:30am to 11:30pm 7 days)
- Police 000 (24 hrs / 7 days)

Support for Men

- DVConnect Mensline 1800 600 636 (9:00 AM to 12 Midnight 7 days)

QUESTIONS?

A child who
lives with
violence is
forever
changed, but
not forever
"damaged."

(Cunningham & Baker,
2007)

