



MORE FOR CHILDREN

What children say makes life good
or tough



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A child-friendly report on the
More for Children research project



The Children's Policy Centre acknowledges, celebrates, and pays our respects to all First Nations Australians.

Much of this research has been on the lands of the Yorta Yorta people and in Pataway, Lutruwita/Tasmania. We have also done research on the lands of the Whadjuk Nyoongar people and on the lands of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people, where the Children's Policy Centre is located. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge the ongoing care for and connection to country.

In our research, our aim is to engage genuinely and respectfully with the traditional owners of the lands we work on, recognising the importance of connection to community and country for all children and young people, but especially for First Nations children and young people.

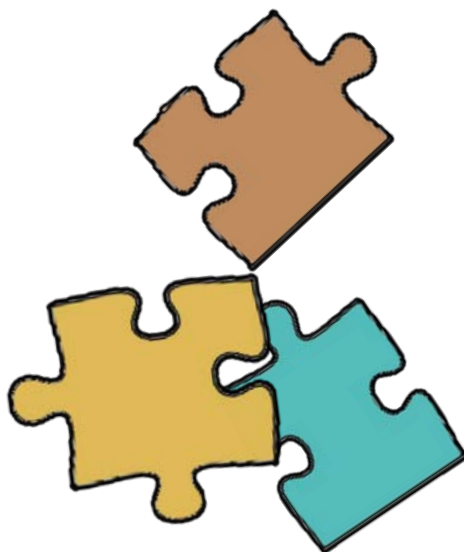
Thank you!

Thank you to the children, young people, parents and carers who have generously shared their time, experiences, insights, daily challenges and hopes for the future.

This booklet is for you.

We have used your words and pictures wherever possible, so that your views and opinions are clear to anyone who reads it.

We haven't used your real names, but the research nicknames you chose.



What is the *More for Children* project?

OUR VISION

All children have the material basics and opportunities, now and into the future, and strong and supportive relationships

WHY

When these things are in place, children have happy, healthy lives now and in the future

OUR VALUES

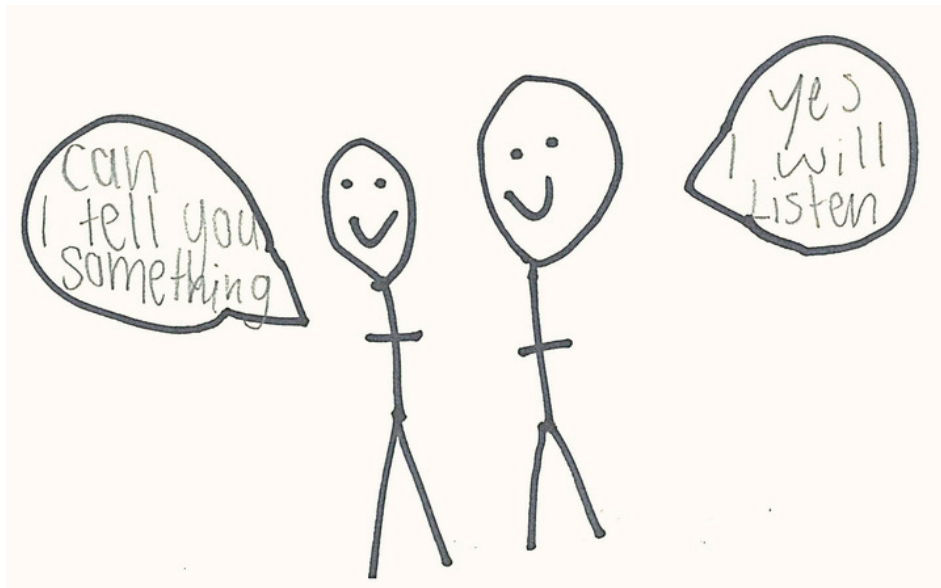
Placing children at the centre of our research to bring about child-inclusive policies, contribute to safe, child friendly communities, and ensure no child is left behind or lives in poverty



We talked with children in four communities - one in Tasmania, one in Victoria, one in Perth and one in Canberra. The people in these communities want to understand what it means to live without enough resources. The goal is to act and to bring change.

We asked children and young people in these communities what makes life good and what makes it tough.

Listening to children



"Bananas", 11 years

Children are at the centre of this research. Children know about their worlds in ways that no one else does.

Children have told us that when life is good there are enough material basics (the things that are needed), opportunities (things to do, the chance to learn, play, relax and be part of the community, and being healthy), and relationships (people who matter).

Each of these areas is made up of many pieces, like a jigsaw. When too many pieces are missing, it is hard to make the picture work. So our question is: what pieces need to be in place to make life good?

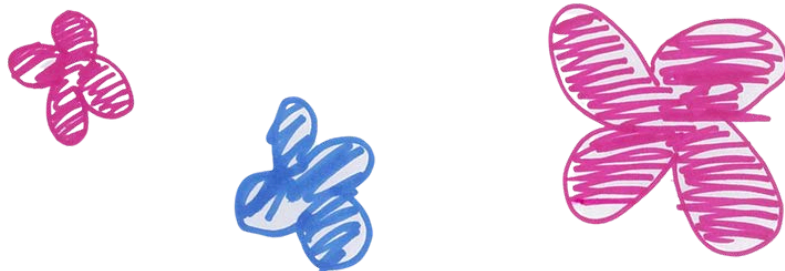
Children told us that life is good when there is a safe place to live, enough to eat, and transport to get around. They also said life is good when there are things to do that are fun and meaningful, when people are kind and caring, and school and communities are welcoming and safe.

But not all children have enough of these things. Life is tough when children have to do without or miss out on opportunities. Life is tough without caring relationships.

In Australia, which is a very wealthy country, one in six children live in poverty - which means their families never have enough money. When we listen to children, we understand what it is like when there is not enough money and when life is very tough.

Some of the things children shared during the More for Children research are challenging. Many of the stories are hard to listen to. But listening is important to understanding and creating the right kinds of change.

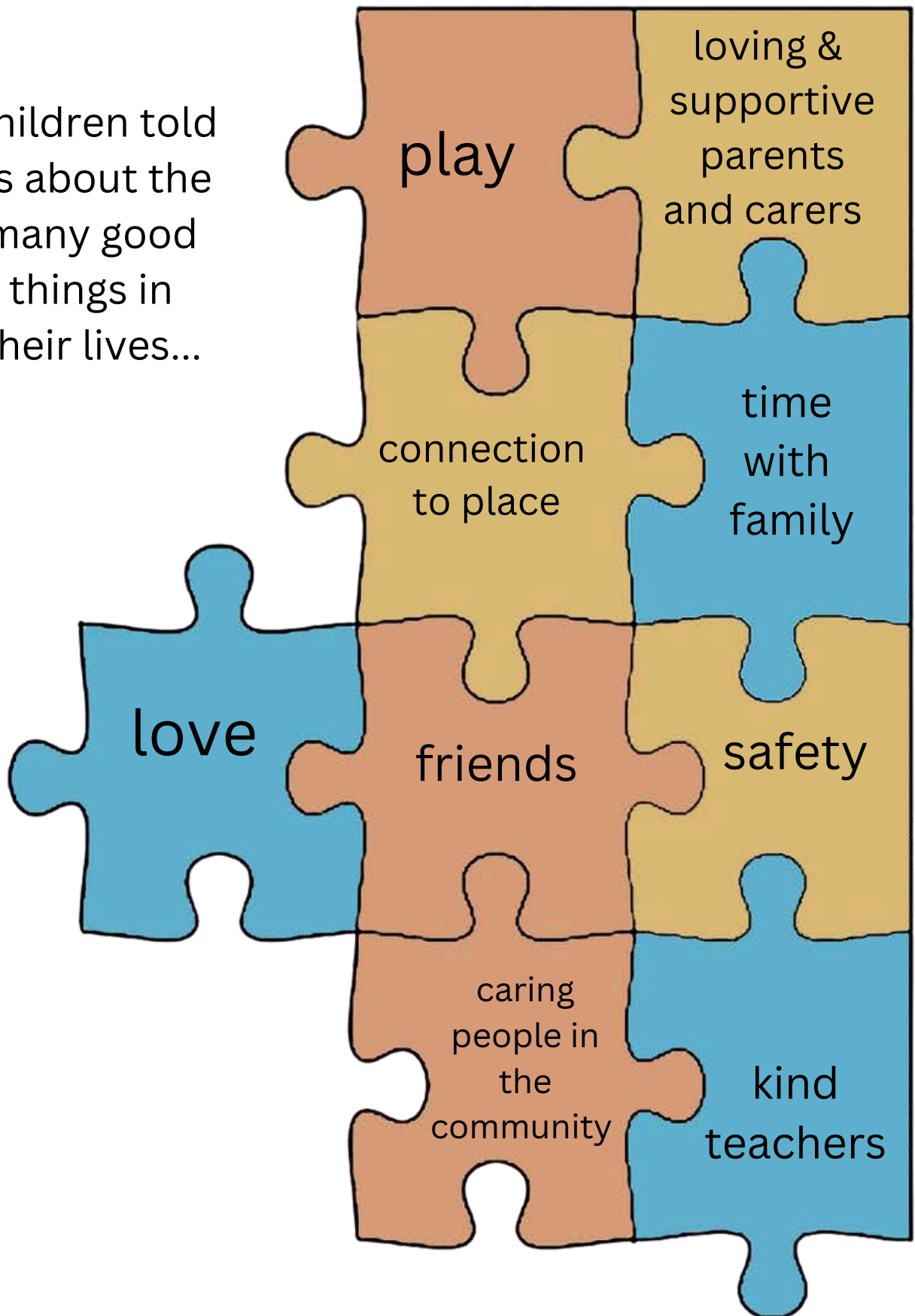
When we listen to children, we hear about the strengths of families and communities, and we hear what needs to change to make sure life is good for all children.



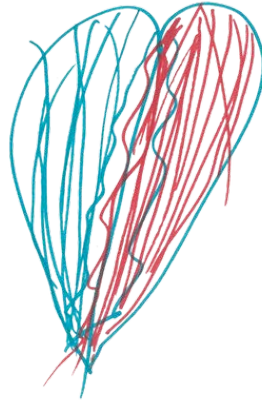
"Daisy", 13 years

What children say makes a good life

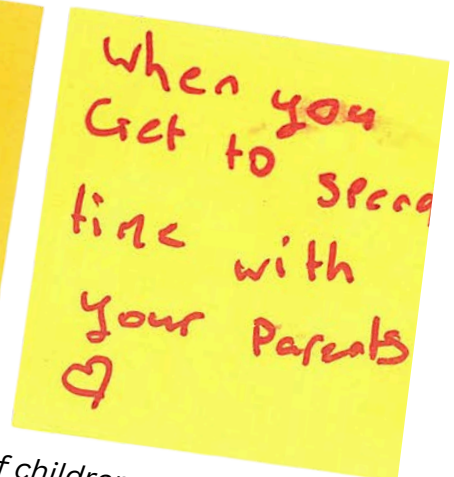
Children told us about the many good things in their lives...



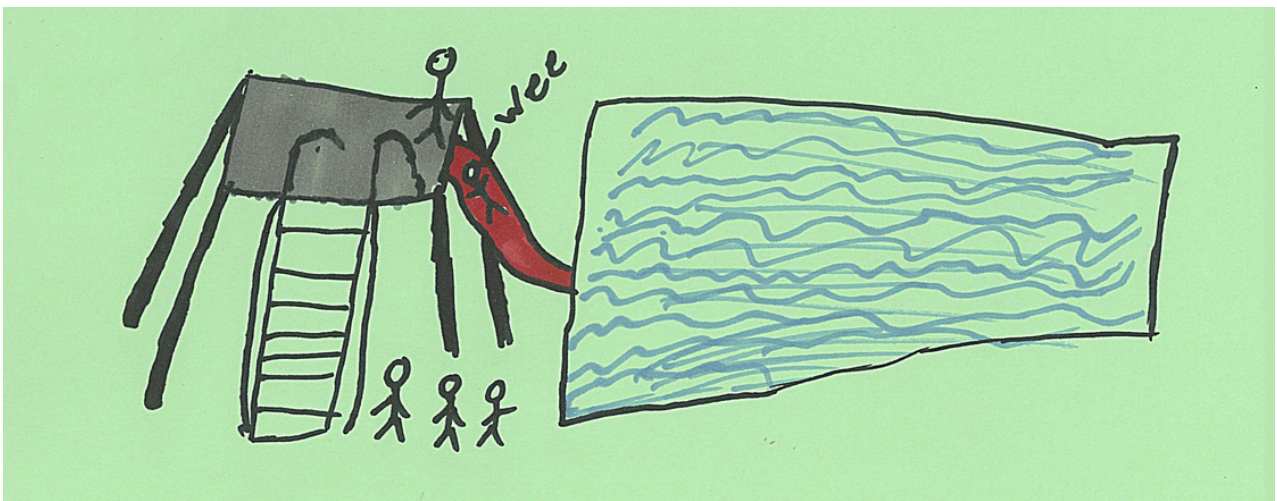
my sister



"RonaldooseeeeeCR7", 10 years



Group of children, aged 6-12 years



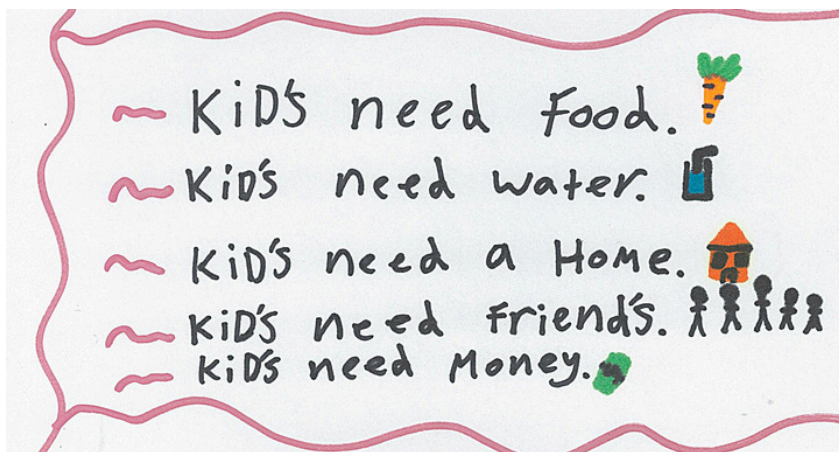
"Timmy", 12 years

What is needed to make a good life



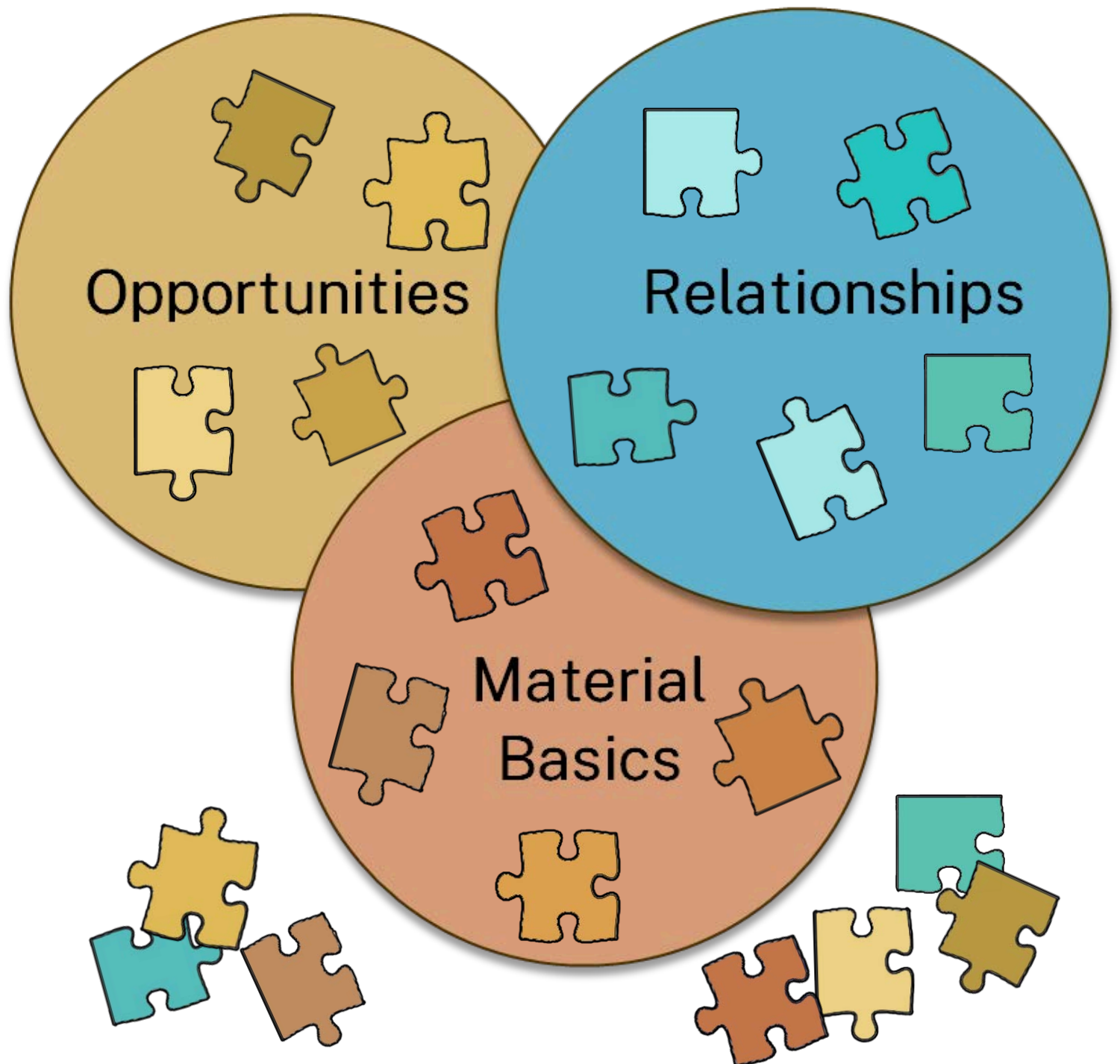
"Tracey", 6 years

Having good friends makes life better. You have people to play with and when you're down they might support you and you can play with them
(*"A"*, 8 years)



"Mr Potato", 10 years

We saw a pattern in the children's words and pictures.
We organised their views into three categories:
Material basics, Opportunities, and Relationships.



There are lots of pieces that need to be in place for children to have what they need for a good life, and children have told us what those pieces need to be.

Material basics: What children need



MATERIAL

**Material basics are
fulfilled for all
children**

- School uniform should be FREE!
- School uniform should be free because it is a bit too expensive.
- The Government should HELP the poor people.

"Sana", 12 years

Not being able to afford petrol

Not having enough money to take pay vet bills

- People are struggling because of cost of living

"Bonnie", 12 years

Group of children, 6-12 years

Dear guthernment, I think we need some more food shops and lots more food, and water so more and more people can survive.

I think we should start making with like some sold paper. because more money are struggling a lot with money.

I think we should get more house's for others I think house's should be for free because some people r struggling!

"Daisy", 9 years

MONEY CARD

PETROL free

"Rar", 7 years

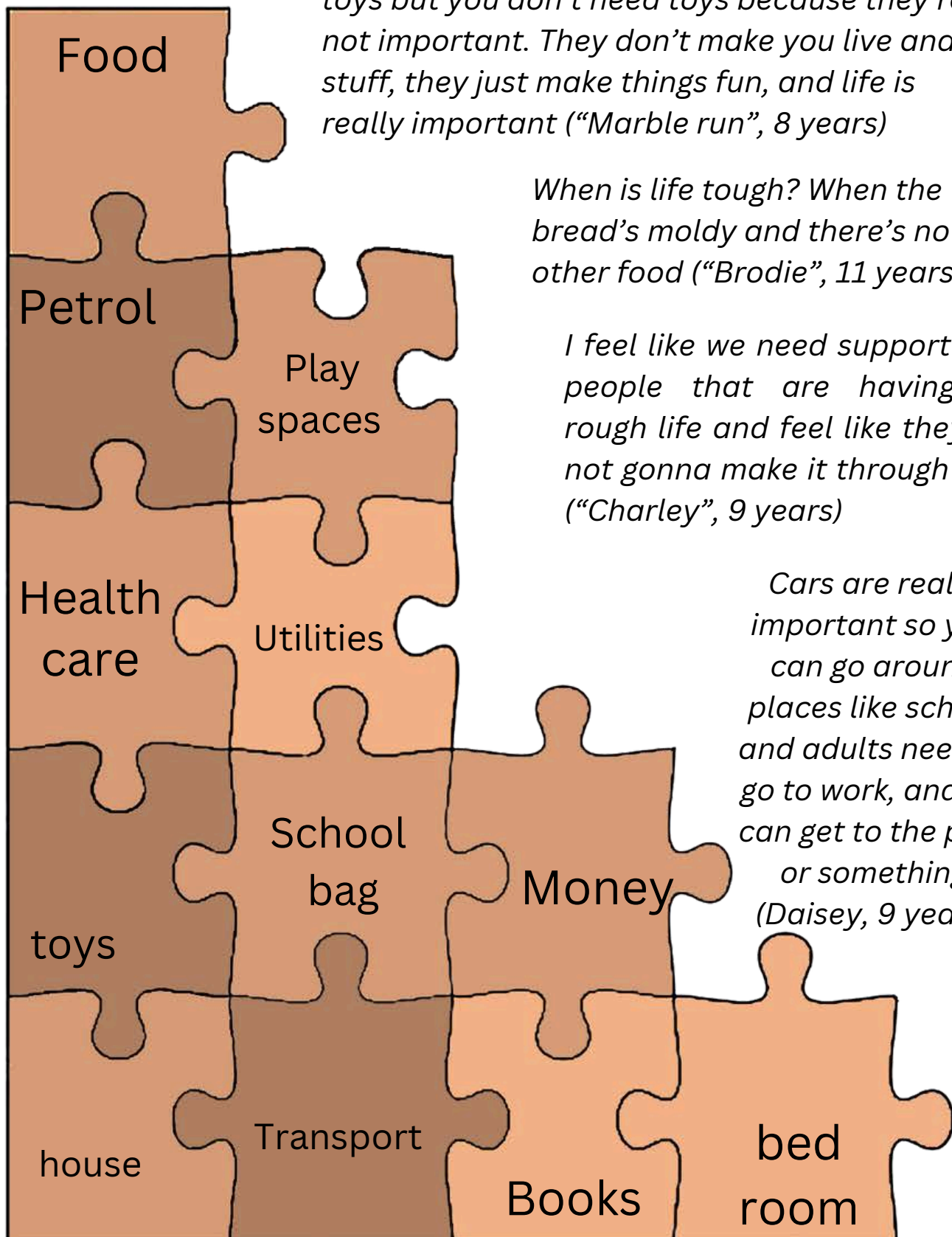
Material basics: What children said

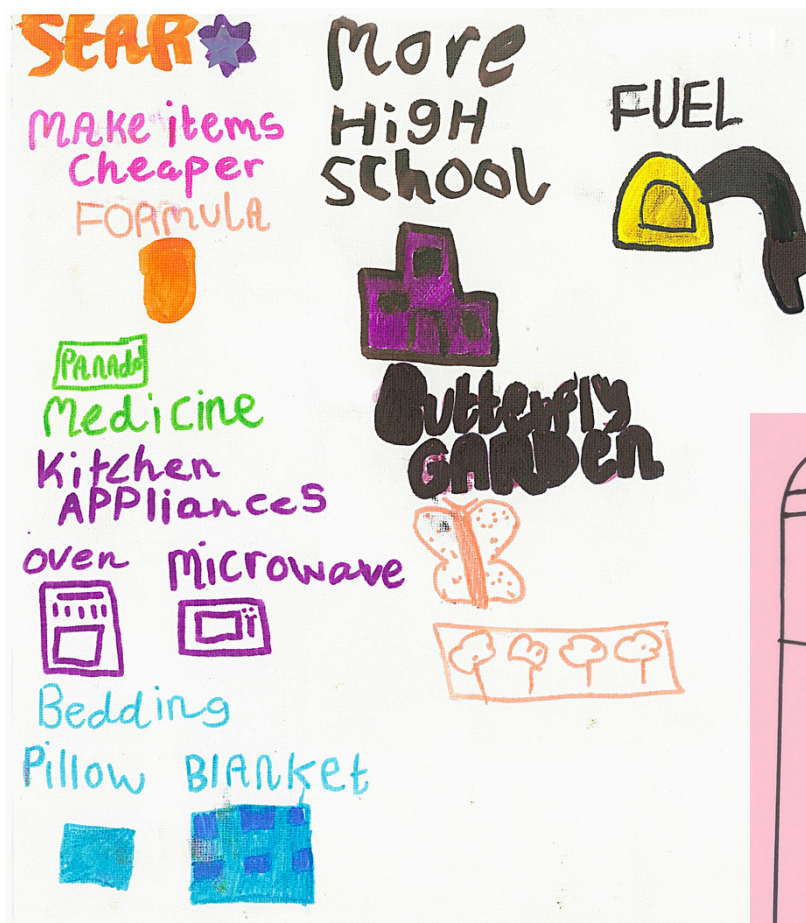
There's not many things that I need. I want toys but you don't need toys because they're not important. They don't make you live and stuff, they just make things fun, and life is really important ("Marble run", 8 years)

When is life tough? When the bread's moldy and there's no other food ("Brodie", 11 years)

I feel like we need support for people that are having a rough life and feel like they're not gonna make it through life ("Charley", 9 years)

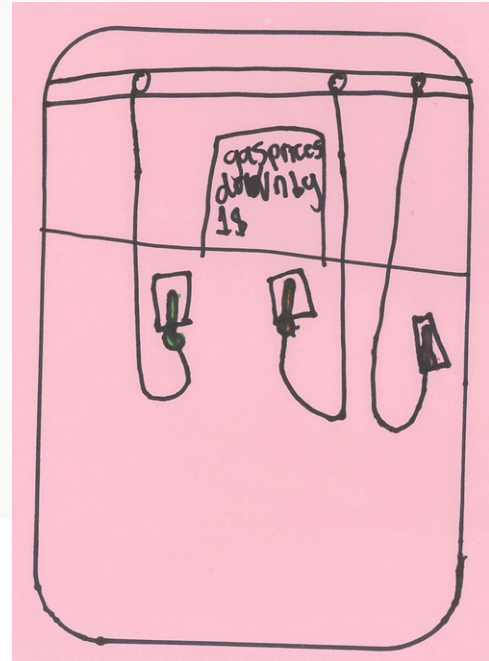
Cars are really important so you can go around places like school and adults need to go to work, and we can get to the park or something (Daisey, 9 years)





"Star", 11 years

The backyard is my favorite part of my house..so I can play"
("Pikachu", 7 years")



"Tim", 11 years



"Banaenae", 8 years

Stuff is really expensive and most of the time the budget won't fit 'cause things are too expensive.

("Mr. Watermelon", 12 years)



"Suzz", 9 years



"Ava", 9 years

The government should pay the rent if the family is broke (so kids can have baths and water won't be a problem).
 I think that grocery's should be cheaper so people can afford it.
 I think healthcare should be free because it may be too expensive.
 I think dentist shouldn't charge so much per appointment.

"Yeji", 10 years

Something at school that I am wanting to learn about is how to save money.

("Messi", 7 years)



"Suzz", 9 years

You can have no money and, like, not be able to support yourself as good.

If you have money you will be able to support yourself.

("Mr. Clean 2.0 #2", 11 years)

Opportunities: What children need

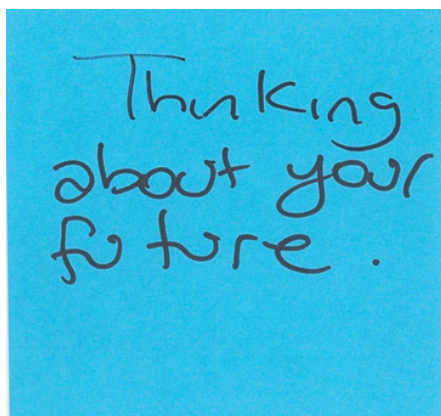
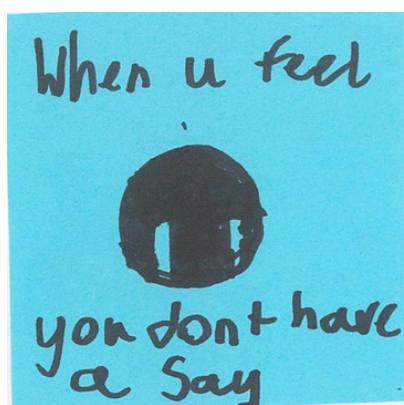
OPPORTUNITY

**Opportunities to be
part of the community,
to learn, play and relax
and to be healthy**

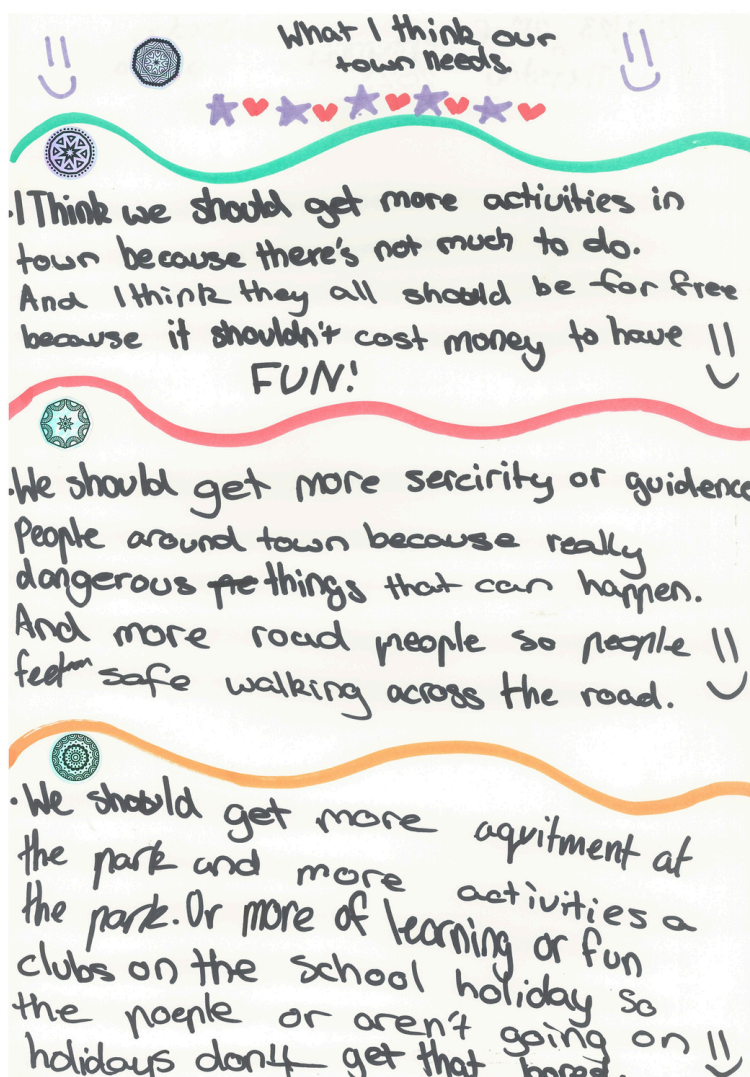
Dear MR. Anthony ~~Eben~~ Albanese, I think we should
 put a lot of effort in the kids education so k.d won't
 have to struggle

"Don Toliver", 12 years

Life is tough when...



Group of children, aged 6-12 years

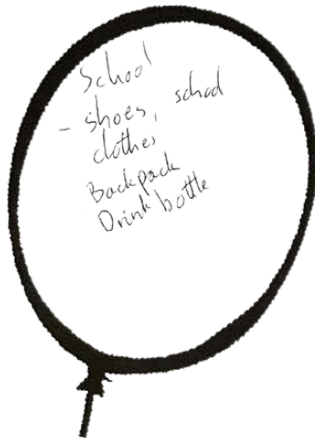


"Jordan" 12 years

Sometimes [my parents] let me buy stuff that's a low price so they're not wasting money. They might think I'll buy expensive toys, but I don't know why they think that I always pick low prices

("Krystal", 7 years)

What I need most is...



"Mr. Watermelon", 12 years



School is good for your mental health, 'cause you are getting out of the house and exploring new things and meeting other kids ("Is", 9 years)



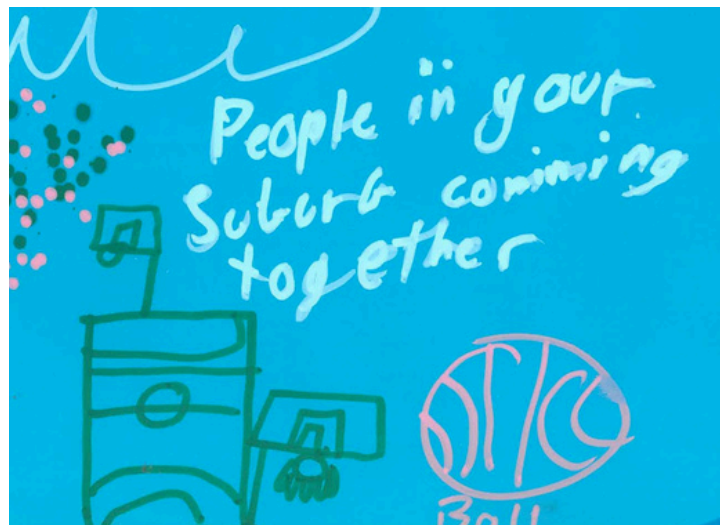
"Suii", 12 years

Let kids talk about what they won't like!

"Nickily", 8 years

With out kids would rage evrey day bc if be banned but kid will touch grass for the first time.

"Mr. Clean 2.0", 10 years on bans on social media and online gaming



"Phillynom", 13 years

School is good 'cause you can get educated, so when you work you can get really good at the job ("Sunshine", 9 years)

Opportunities: What children said



*I think all kids should have the same opportunity and they should do what they love as well and follow their dream.
("Suishi125", 12 years)*

Dear Prime Minister Anthony, Can you please give the children with no opportunity some hope. ("Lily", 11 years)

Being poor makes life tough for children... you just can't get around and do as much stuff. ("Commander Evil Bob", 12 years)

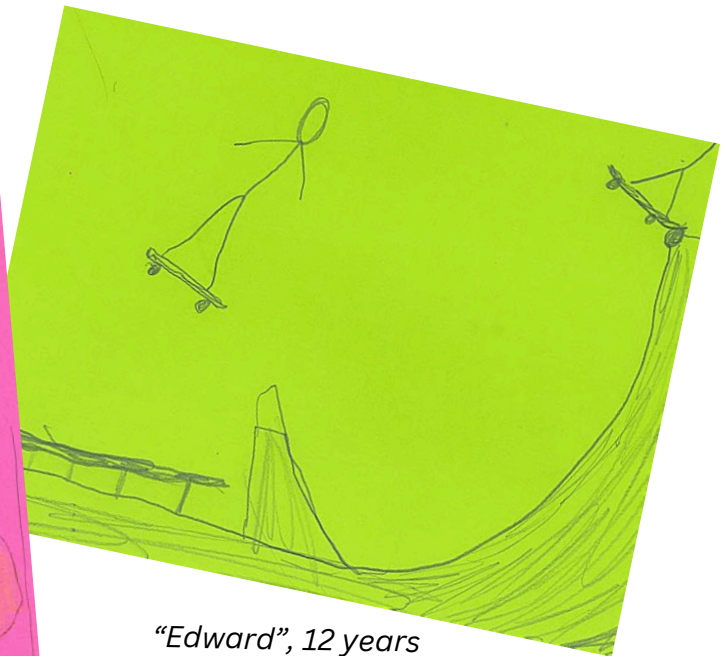
[We will go, but] only if my Mum can afford it really. ...We will be able to do it on my birthday because it's the day my Mum gets paid. ("Max", 12 years)



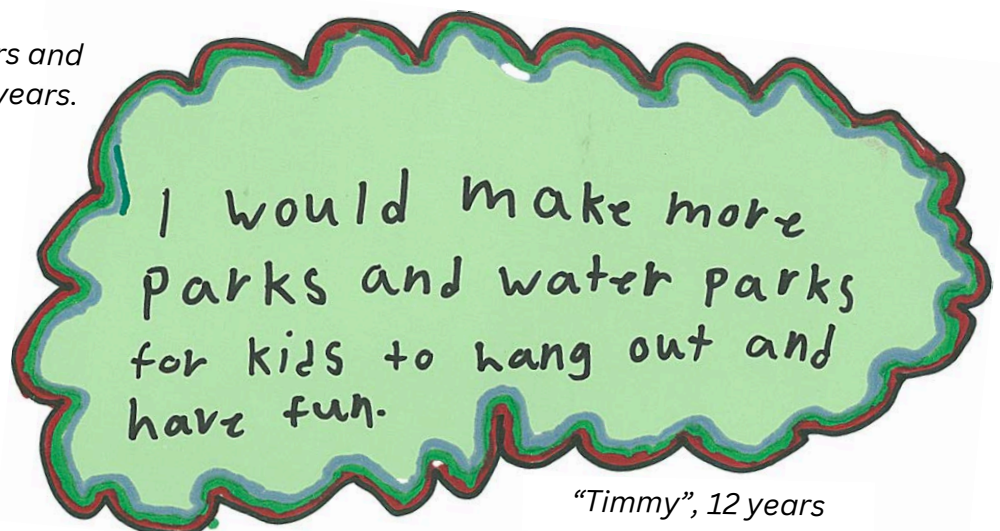
"Sunny", 9 years



"Avocado" 12 years and
"Watermelon", 7 years.

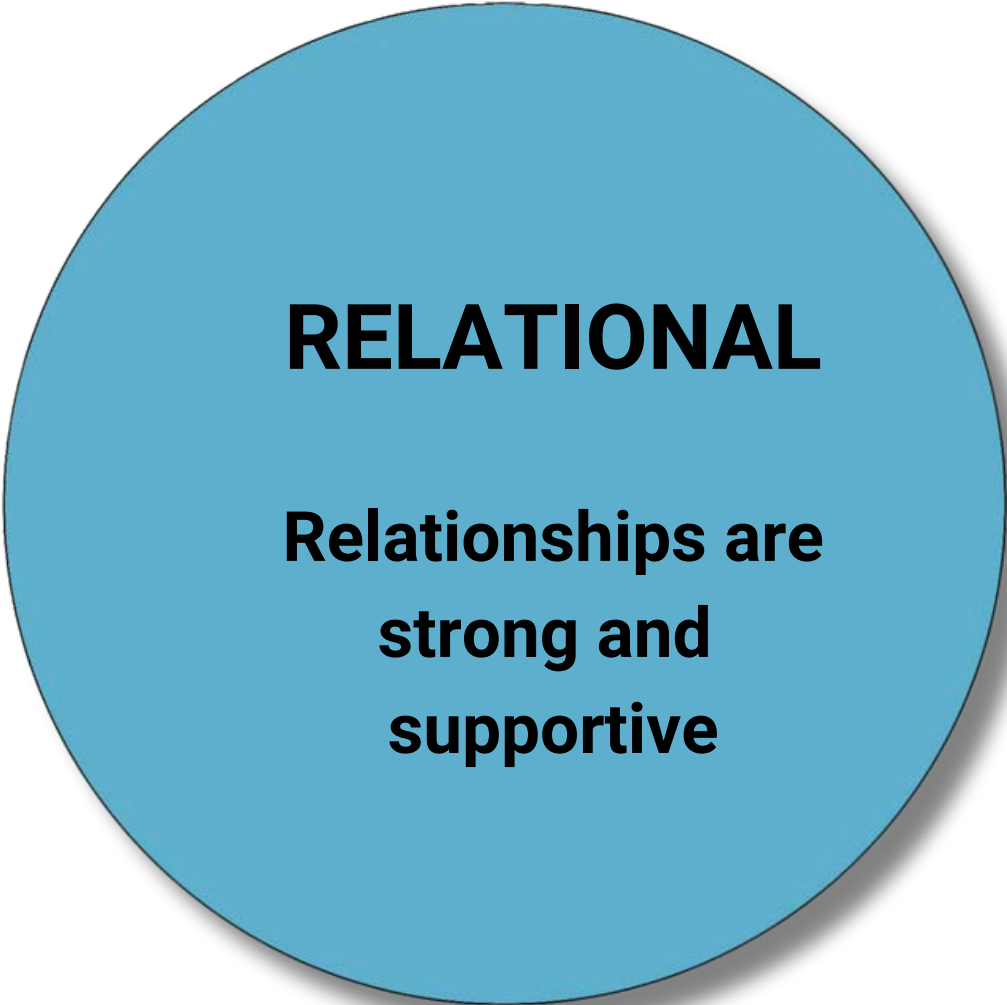


"Edward", 12 years



"Timmy", 12 years

Relationships: What children need



RELATIONAL

**Relationships are
strong and
supportive**



"Atomic Bomb", 12 years

Hanging out with your own family, like helping your imagination build up that would make life better
("Mr. Q", 10 years)

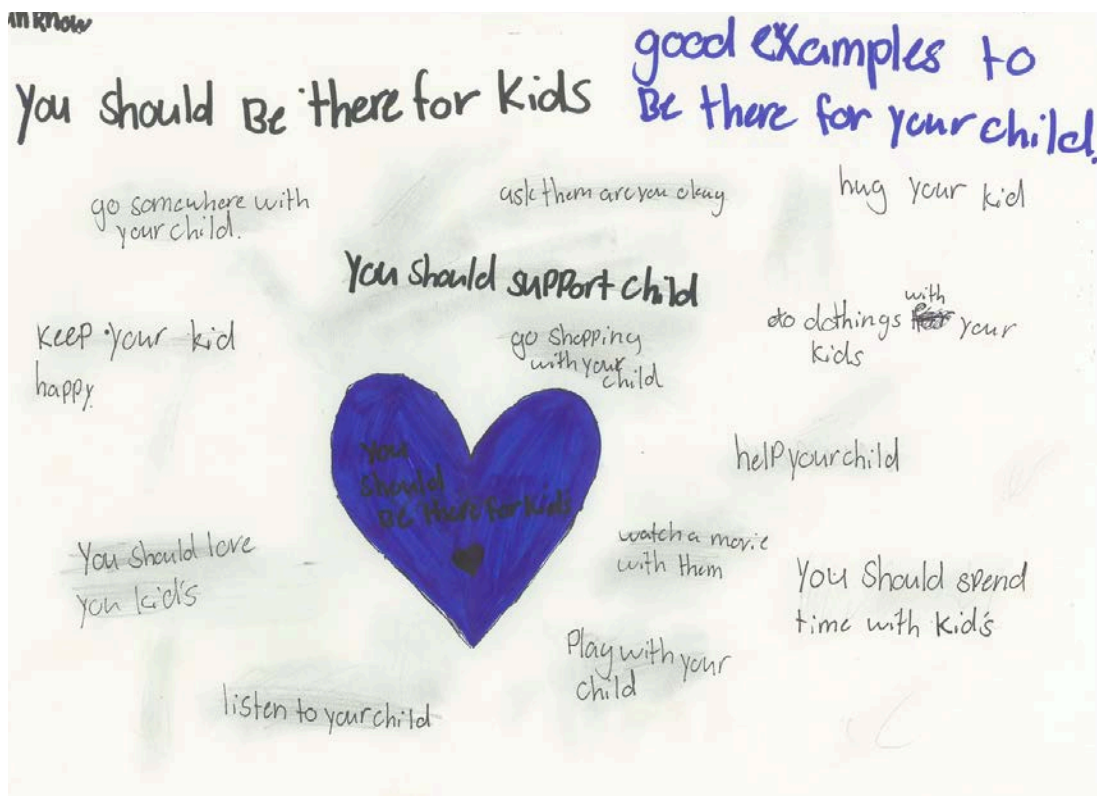


"BTS", 12 years

I think parents need to clock off at reasonable hours so that they can spend more time with their children. This would not be possible if they didn't have a good job 'cause the less good a job it is, the more hours they have to work, or the less pay they'll get per hour.
("Slim Shady", 11 years)

When parents have good jobs

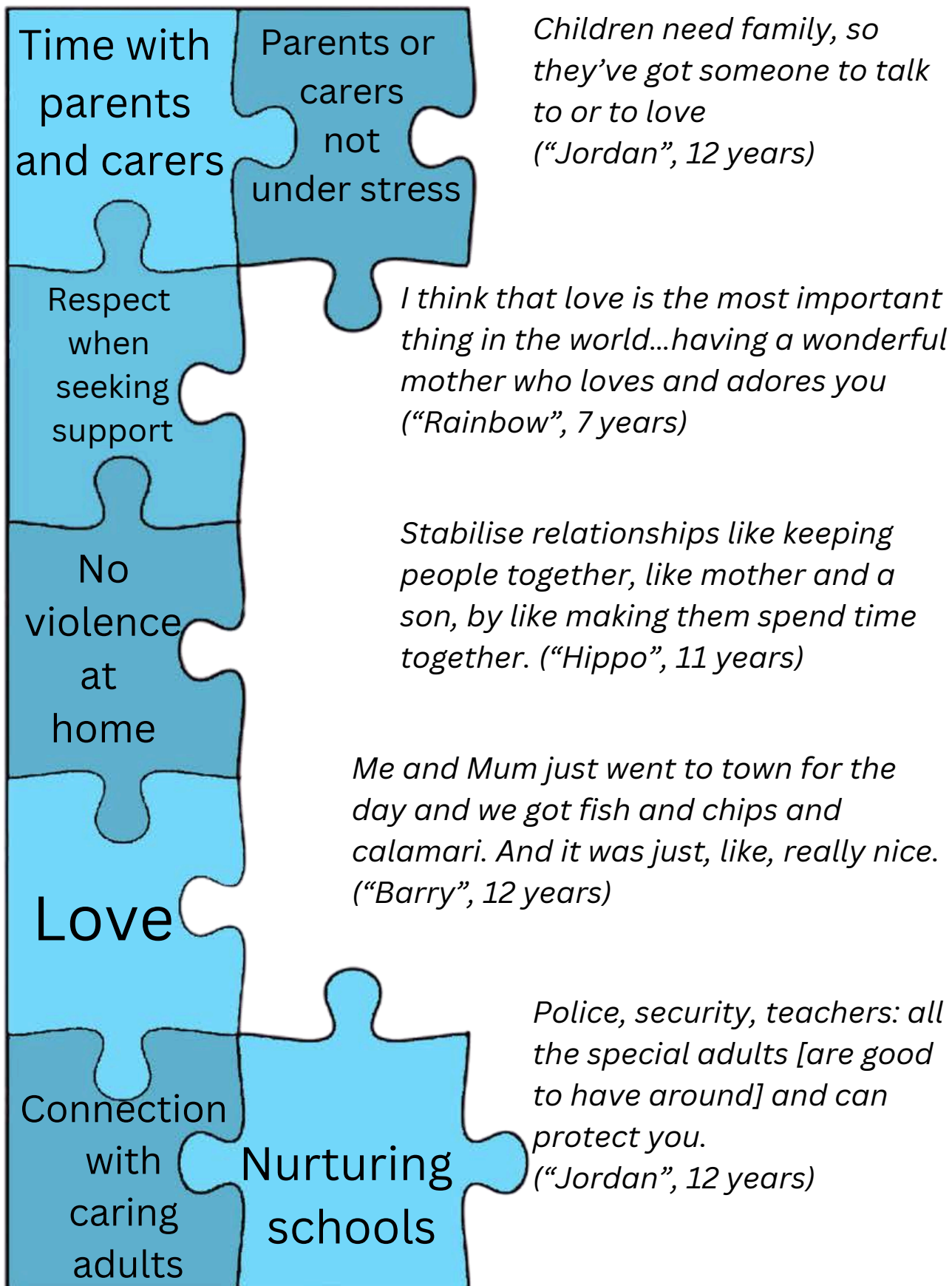
When your parents/guardian are in a good mood.



Group of children, aged 6-12 years

"Unknown", 11 years

Relationships: What children said



BE SAFE BE GOOD GET LOVE BE HAPPY

"JB HIFI", 7 years



- no Swearing
- no being mean
- no Hurting
- no calling people mean things

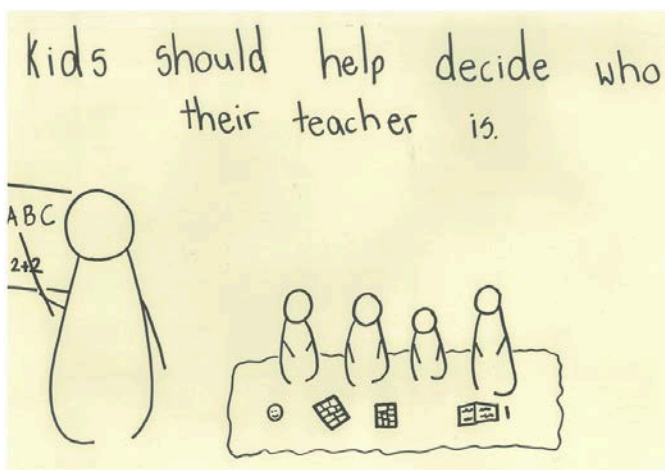
Group of children, aged 6-12 years

we h9f to

be Kind

Some parents just don't have the time to hang out with their kids.

("Sushi125", 12 years)



"Face", 12 years

"Marble Run", 8 years



"Sunny", 11 years

Children have more time with family. Adults get day off every 2 weeks to spend quality time with family and friends.

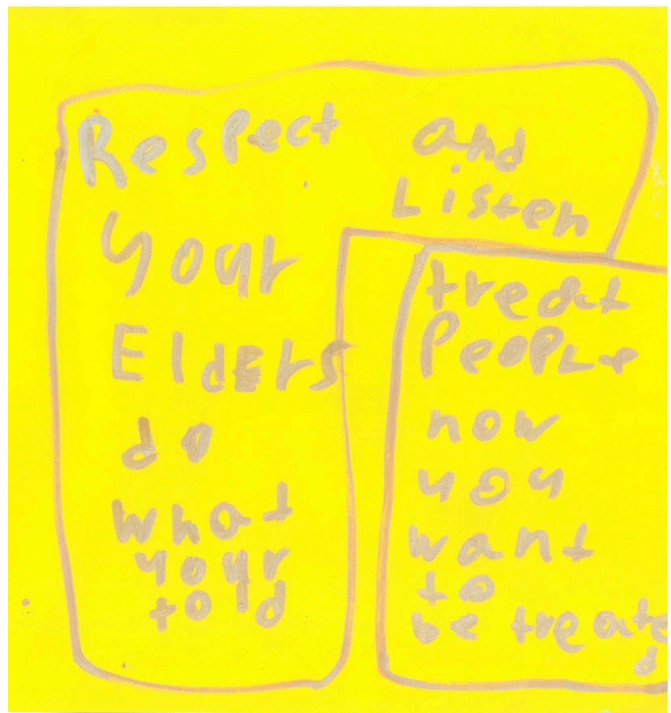
"Leah", 11 years

Once a month we should take a holiday off school. Children should have lots of fun with parents, they should appreciate what their parents do for them, they would have lots more time with their parents ("Rosa", 7 years)

What children need most...



"Light Flight", 11 years



"Dr. Light YT", 12 years

And spending time with family

"Maccas", 7 years

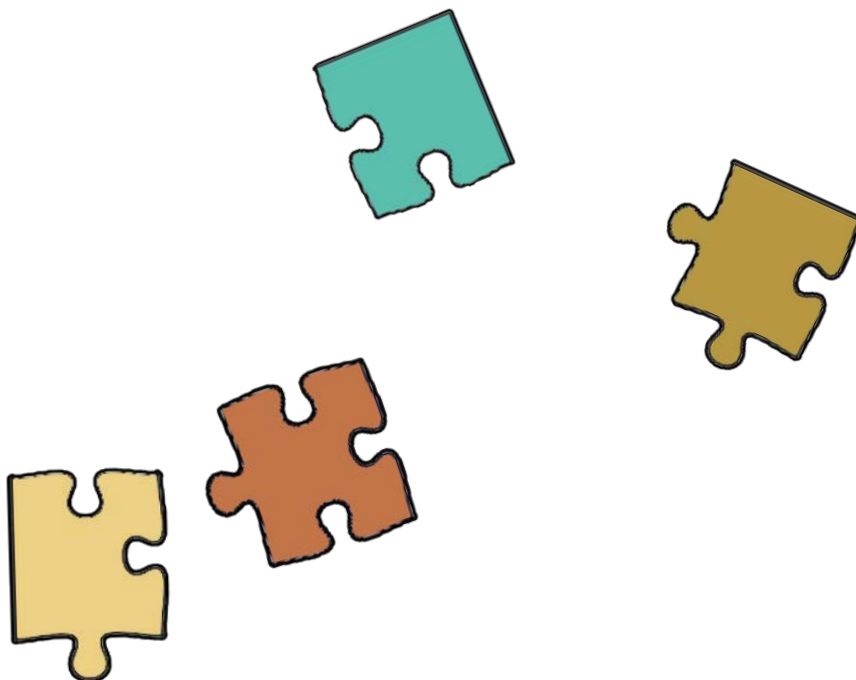
"Petalpaw", 9 years



Next steps...

We now understand what life is like for children when it is good. We also understand what life is like when it is tough, and what children need to have a good life. We understand that some things need to change.

The next step is to help others understand what children need and to find ways of making that happen. This is a big job and change may not be fast. But it is important that all children have enough material basics, opportunities, and strong relationships to make their lives good.



Thank you to the young people who took part in the group discussions.

Thank you to the children who took part in the research workshops, you will find your research nicknames below.

This booklet contains some of the wonderful ideas that you all shared during the research.

JB HI FI, 7 YEARS

DAISY, 9 YEARS

JORDAN, 11 YEARS

DORA, 9 YEARS

BELLA, 7 YEARS

RAY RAY, 10 YEARS

LALAH, 11 YEARS

RAR, 7 YEARS

RAINBOW, 7 YEARS

CHOG, 11 YEARS

BOOFHEAD, 10 YEARS

BOB, 7 YEARS

APPLE, 8 YEARS

CHILLI CHILDREN, 9 YEARS

STRAWBERRY, 9 YEARS

BRODIE, 11 YEARS

LION KING, 9 YEARS

DUSTY, 7 YEARS

BROOKSY, 10 YEARS

FROG, 11 YEARS

ROSE, 10 YEARS

CLEAR, 9 YEARS

PINKY, 10 YEARS

BAY MAX, 11 YEARS

HELLO BEN, 10 YEARS

WARREN, 11 YEARS

MOO MOO, 11 YEARS

BLUEMAN, 10 YEARS

BANAENAE, 8 YEARS

BUBBLES, 10 YEARS

KCALLY, 11 YEARS

LIL PEEP, 12 YEARS

ROSEY, 12 YEARS

LILY, 11 YEARS

SHREK, 11 YEARS

LANDO, 12 YEARS

SCOUT, 11 YEARS

X, 12 YEARS

HAN, 11 YEARS

PO THE TELETUBBY, 12 YEARS

BANANAS, 11 YEARS

TRACY, 6 YEARS

BOB, 9 YEARS

ROCCO, 6 YEARS

MR POTATO, 10 YEARS

MARBLE RUN, 8 YEARS

BLANK, 14 YEARS

BARRY, 12 YEARS

ATOMIC BOMB, 12 YEARS

SOPHIE, 10 YEARS

KRYSTAL, 7 YEARS

MR Q, 10 YEARS

A, 8 YEARS

Z, 6 YEARS

MAX, 12 YEARS

STAR, 11 YEARS

DROID, 7 YEARS

SLIDER82, 11 YEARS

TAZ, 10 YEARS

NIGHTWING, 9 YEARS
BOB THE BUILDER, 7 YEARS
PETAL PAW, 9 YEARS
COMMANDER EVIL BOB, 11 YEARS
MINECRAFT, 8 YEARS
TIM, 11 YEARS
TIMMY, 12 YEARS
SUNNY, 9 YEARS
GUKO, 9 YEARS
ROXY, 11 YEARS
DINO, 7 YEARS
CHARLEY, 9 YEARS
SOPHIE, 7 YEARS
PINEAPPLE WOLF, 11 YEARS
EDWARD, 12 YEARS
WATERMELON, 9 YEARS
AVOCADO, 12 YEARS
FACE, 12 YEARS

BONNIE, 11 YEARS
MR. PICKLE, 10 YEARS
COLLINGWOOD, 11 YEARS
FROSTY, 12 YEARS
DONTOLIVER, 11 YEARS
MONGRAAL 11 YEARS
CASEOH, 11 YEARS
MR. KEVIN, 12 YEARS
SLIM SHADY, 11 YEARS

PIZZAFRYER, 11 YEARS
MESSI, 10 YEARS
RONALDO, 10 YEARS
OTHER MESSI, 12 YEARS
SUIICR7, 10 YEARS
SUII, 12 YEARS
JISOO, 12 YEARS
LISA, 13 YEARS
DAISY, 13 YEARS
ROSE, 12 YEARS
NEYMAR, 12 YEARS
ABI, 10 YEARS
SANA, 10 YEARS
MINJI, 12 YEARS
WONYOUNG, 12 YEARS

PETERBOT, 11 YEARS
TOMDE, 11 YEARS
UNKNOWN, 11 YEARS
KING BOB, 10 YEARS
MR. ECLIPSE, 10 YEARS
RUSSIA, 12 YEARS
HIPPO, 11 YEARS
MONKEY BIG BOY, 11 YEARS
BTS, 12 YEARS

SUNSHINE, 9 YEARS

AVA, 8 YEARS

IS, 8 YEARS

PIKACHU, 9 YEARS

MR. WATERMELON, 11 YEARS

MR. CLEAR 2.0, 10 YEARS

MR. CLEAR 2.0 #2, 11 YEARS

NICKELY, 8 YEARS

SUNNY, 11 YEARS

MESSI, 7 YEARS

MACCAS, 7 YEARS

LEAH, 11 YEARS

YEJI, 10 YEARS

ROSA, 7 YEARS

SUSHI125, 12 YEARS

ROSE, 5 YEARS

PUPPY, 5 YEARS

KITTY, 7 YEARS

PHILLYNOM, 13 YEARS

SPARKLE, 6 YEARS

FILIP, 8 YEARS

DOCTOR LIGHT YT, 12 YEARS

LIGHT FLIGHT, 11 YEARS



"Hippo", 11 years

Find out more about
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**BURNiE
WORKS**



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