

WORDS AND PICTURES (Signs of Safety www.SignsofSafety.net)

The SOS model uses a tool called Words and Picture to help explain to children their stories, using age-appropriate words and drawings to explain concerns and safety plans that are child-focused. Workers can collaborate with the family and foster parents to create a story the child can understand and contribute to.

This is a story for Laura written by Nanna (Kate), Aunty Emma and Uncle Steve, Vim and Chyneese from Territory Families, to answer really important questions like:

- Why Laura has not been able to live with her family in Canteen Creek and Yuelamu?
- Why Laura had to come to Alice Springs and live with Aunty Emma and Uncle Steve?
- Why don't Laura's mum and dad always come see her when she visits Tennant Creek?

Everyone worked together to write this story for Laura because they know how important it is for kids who haven't grown up living with their families to know their story. Everyone was waiting until the right time when Laura was old enough to hear her story and understand it.



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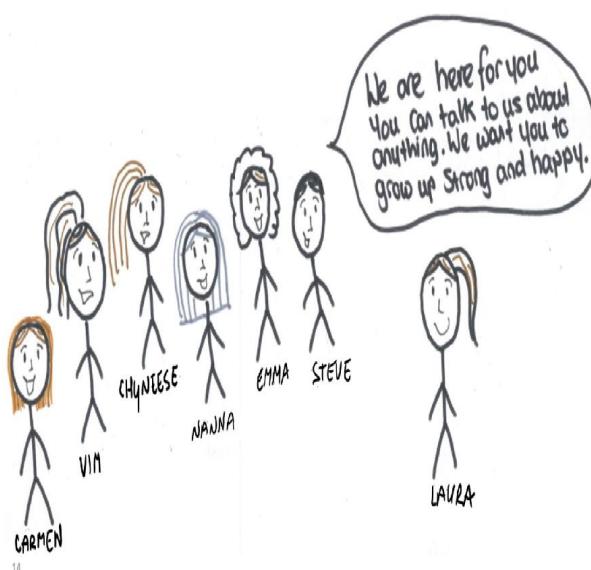
When bad things like being abused happen to people, things can get too much for their brain and spirit. Things were extra hard for mum Ashley because she had a disability since she was very young, which means that her brain doesn't always work like she needs it to.

Robert kept abusing mum Ashley and even though she tried really hard to keep herself and Laura safe, it was just too hard.

Robert is the traditional owner and has cultural authority and he used his power over mum Ashley and the whole community to get what he wanted. Robert would threaten, control, and hurt everyone around him and Ashley. So even if family wanted to help mum Ashley, they couldn't because they were just too scared of what Robert would do.



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