

Children Australia 2003

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues of *Children Australia* are available to purchase, either as a single issue or as a volume set (4 issues).

Lists of the contents of each journal published in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are available on request.

Prices quoted below are inclusive of postage and GST (within Australia).

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Complete set (4 issues) : **\$55.00**

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To obtain an order form and lists of contents, please contact:

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St Luke's

Seriously optimistic resources for working with children and families

You may know that St Luke's is a not-for-profit agency providing a range of children, family, disability and community support services throughout North Central Victoria. But did you know that St Luke's has its own unique publishing house called Innovative Resources?

Innovative Resources' full colour, high quality, gently humorous materials such as **Strength Cards For Kids** and **The Bears** cards and the **I Can Monsters** cards are produced entirely in Australia and have been enthusiastically adopted by thousands of child and family workers, educators, counsellors, social workers, and parents.

Conversational Prompts

Innovative Resources publishes 'conversational prompts'. The card packs, books, stickers, posters and other resources work as reminders of things that are important—our strengths, values, relationships, and the ways we learn and grow. They can be used to build conversations that enhance self-esteem, help to create our identities, give us hope. Conversations such as these are at the heart of therapeutic work.

We all know the maxim 'a picture is worth a thousand words'. These strengths-based resources explore how simple pictures can work as visual metaphors by adding meaning and power to words. Many people can identify life-changing experiences ignited by art, symbols, music, poetry or even silence. It is not a new idea, but we strive to ensure our materials are fresh and original.

THE BEARS

The Bears are a set of 48 cards each showing a lovable cartoon-style bear expressing a different feeling. They are just like the people you know – some are happy, shy, confident or tired, and others are grumpy, energetic, noisy, scared, or caring. **The Bears** can be used to help children talk about their feelings and how they experience the feelings of others around them. Because each bear card expresses emotions graphically and without words, each child is free to give his or her own interpretation of the feeling.

I CAN MONSTERS

The *I Can Monsters* is another set of colourful, laminated cards especially designed for pre-school and early primary school aged children. Each card begins with the words 'I can...' and brings an important message: *we all have competencies and we need to use these to learn, to grow and to be safe*. The antics of these funny monsters will bring a smile to every child's face as they help children talk about what they can do, what they are good at and what they would like to do more of. These cards are great prompts for having conversations with children about important things such as personal safety.

STRENGTH CARDS FOR KIDS

As most childcare workers know, the most powerful way to solve a problem is to start with the strengths we already have. Each *Strength Card for Kids* consists of a richly illustrated animal graphic and a simple sentence describing a possible strength. They are ideal for building self-esteem, uncovering hidden strengths and mobilising strengths to tackle problems.

Upcoming Release

THE HARVEYS AND OTHER STORIES

Several new resources for working with children and families are currently in production. One of these is a collection of short stories written by Jennifer Lehmann, a lecturer in social work at La Trobe University, Bendigo. These stories celebrate diversity and awaken curiosity about human behaviour and motivation. The stories themselves, and the insightful notes that accompany them, prompt conversations about our values, the choices we make and the identities we choose for ourselves. This book will be available at the end of March and will be a great resource for teachers of social work, education and health, and a valuable tool for child and family professionals to use in their work.

For a free catalogue please call in or contact us at our new bookshop:

'Metaphors' at 137 McCrae Street, Bendigo 3550. Phone: 03 5442 0500, fax: 03 5442 0555, email: stlukeir@stlukes.org.au Web: www.stlukes.org.au

Publications of interest



... TOWARDS BETTER FOSTER CARE ...: REDUCING THE RISKS

Jan Carter

2002, The Children's Foundation, West Melbourne, Vic



PROMOTING FAMILY CHANGE: THE OPTIMISM FACTOR

Bronwen Elliott, with Louise Mulroney and Di O'Neill

2000, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards, NSW



**HELPING CHILDREN TO BUILD SELF-ESTEEM:
A PHOTOCOPIABLE ACTIVITIES BOOK**

Deborah Plummer

2001, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London, UK



LITERACY LEARNING IN THE EARLY YEARS

Caroline Barratt-Pugh & Mary Rohl (Editors)

2000, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, NSW



THE MANY-SIDED TRIANGLE: ADOPTION IN AUSTRALIA

Audrey Marshall and Margaret McDonald

2001, Melbourne University Press, Carlton South, Vic