

Getting ready to start Training Activity

Module one – Context of foster care

String Sculpture – Alice's Story

Alice's Story

String Sculpture

Alice is 12 years old.

Alice is an only child and lives at home with her mother and father. Alice is in Grade 7 at primary school.

Alice is normally a bright and happy young person but for the last 2 weeks her best friend **Helen** and some of her teachers have noticed that she has become quite withdrawn and always appears tired.

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While Alice and Helen were eating lunch together Alice started to cry and confided in Helen that her father had been touching her in a sexual manner and that this has been happening since she was 10 years old but had gotten worse in the last month.

Alice told Helen that his advances were getting bolder and that a few weeks ago he tried to touch her while she was in the shower while her mother was at work.

Alice told Helen not to tell anyone.

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The next morning Helen decided to see the **Guidance Officer** at the school and talk to her about what Alice had told her.

The Guidance Officer called the classroom and asked for Alice to come and see her straight away. Alice told the Guidance Officer what had been happening at home.

The Guidance Officer then notified the **Principal** who called the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs who in turn called the Police.

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Two **Child Safety Officers (CSO)** and a **Police Officer** came to the school to speak to Alice.

The CSO called **Alice's mother** and asked her to come to the school also.

Alice's mother did not believe Alice, stating that Alice's father would never do such a thing and she was angry with Alice, believing that Alice had made the story up.

A decision was made that Alice should see a **doctor** that day to help determine the possible extent of Sexual Abuse.

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The Placement Services Unit (PSU) sent a referral to the Foster and Kinship Care agencies to request a care arrangement for Alice. A fostering agency, after matching a foster carer to Alice's needs, called the foster carers with the referral information.

The **foster carers** and the foster care agency support worker were to meet with the CSO at the local Child Safety Service Centre to meet Alice. As the foster carers were picking up their children from sport they too would be there when they met Alice.

It is now 4.30pm the next afternoon after the time that Alice made the initial disclosure to her friend Helen.

String Sculpture – Alice’s Story

- Alice
- Helen
- Guidance Officer
- School Principal
- 2 Child Safety Officers
- Police Officer
- Alice’s Mother
- Co-ordinator
- Foster Carers
- Carers children

Alice's Story Summary