

THE MEGAPHONE!



[why ATTACHMENT matters]

Promoting the voices of Manitoba's children & youth

2013

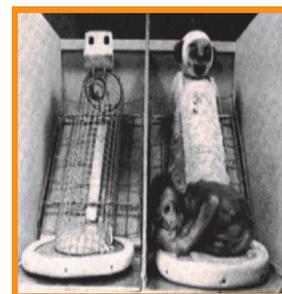
i am ... a YOUTH

Issue 01

Check out our other info sheets for Service Providers & The General Public

It all started with some MONKEYS

Way back in 1958, Harry Harlow conducted an experiment with monkeys. The goal of the study was to see how baby monkeys responded to a life without a mother. The baby monkeys were removed from their mother at birth and put in a cage with two options for a new mother. One mother was totally made out of wire and a bottled was attached to feed the baby, while the other mother was made from sponge and soft cloth but did not have a bottle. Harlow found the monkeys spent more time with the *cloth mother* even though the **WIRE MOTHER** provided food!



↳ **WHAT?** Well the monkey study helped explain some things about human behaviour: having a person to connect with or attach to is important for babies to grow up to be physically and emotionally healthy. Although these studies were a long time ago, it's now widely accepted that in order for children to develop appropriately in the areas of social and emotional health, they need an adult in their lives they can depend on to be consistently available to support them, especially in times of stress.

The RESILIENCE Code!

It's little surprise that researchers agree that youth who have experienced abuse or neglect as kids, "are generally resilient and can lead productive and fulfilling lives"¹ This means that even if you've gone through some pretty scary and intense stuff in your life you have the strength within you to do great and awesome

re-sil-ience :

1. achieving positive life outcomes in spite of risk
2. the ability to rebound from adversity with greater strength to meet future challenges²

things in your life. It also helps to have an adult or friend in your life that will encourage you. Look around you and find someone

that will believe in you and help you dream big. **"HUMANS** by nature are resilient, for we are descendants of **survivors**. Even children exposed to great trauma can turn their lives around, if they can develop certain **INNER STRENGTHS** and rely on supports from caring persons in their lives."²

¹ Preston, J. P., Car-Stewart, S., & Northwest, C. (2009). Aboriginal youth gangs: Preventative approaches. *First Peoples Child & Family Review*, 4(2), pp. 152-160.

² Brendto, L., & Larson, S. (2004). The resilience code: Finding greatness in youth. *Reclaiming Children and Youth* 12(4), 194 - 200.

OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE

100- 346 Portage Avenue. Winnipeg, MB. R3C 0C3. (204) 988-7440. Toll Free: 1-800-263-7146

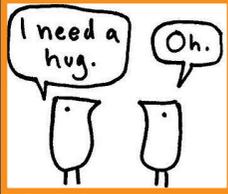
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Article 9 - separation from

Parents : You have the right to live with a family that cares for you



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international agreement between many countries around the world. The UNCRC has been in place since 1989, and gives children and youth all over the world more than 40 major human rights.

The Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) includes as a guiding principle the idea that children have the right to “a continuous family environment in which they can flourish.” The best interests of the child is defined by *The CFSA* to include “the child’s opportunity to have a parent-child relationship as a wanted and needed member within a family structure.” This is similar to Article 9 in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which says that ...

You have the right to live with your parents unless it is not in your best interest and you have the right to maintain contact with both parents if separated from one or both

There are lots of reasons why parents may not be able to provide the care and protection their children need. And sometimes it’s really not safe for kids to live at home with their parents. If you can’t live at home with your parents you have the right to stay in contact with them. Keeping in contact will look different depending on your family’s situation. If you’re concerned that you haven’t been able to see your parents, talk to your social worker OR you can **drop us a line at (204) 988-7440.**

TAKE COURAGE!

The author “James Hillman uses the metaphor of an acorn to describe each child’s unique hidden potential.

A tiny acorn carries coded instructions for becoming a **mighty oak**. All children are endowed with the seed for some unique genius.”²

“ I am taking control over my life, rather than allowing drugs and alcohol to control me.”

Quote from a youth in care

WHAT'S THE GENIUS HIDING INSIDE YOU?

“... KEEP YOUR HEAD HELD HIGH DON'T BE AFRAID TO CRY ...”

Excerpt from a poem by a youth in care



Artwork by a youth in care

³ Image Source: http://langcom.nu.ca/sites/langcom.nu.ca/files/mother_child%20sm.jpg



Office of the Children's Advocate

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