

KINSHIP CARERS, KINDLY OFFERED THEIR INSIGHT TO KINSHIP CARE IRELAND ON CALLS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY:

"He was fully traumatised when he came to me. I get a buzz out of seeing him now, coming back to himself. Back laughing and being himself"

"While I may miss out on a life I had planned and grieve that life. Her being happy makes it all worthwhile. The little hugs, the little smiles, that's what gives me the ability to do it all again tomorrow"

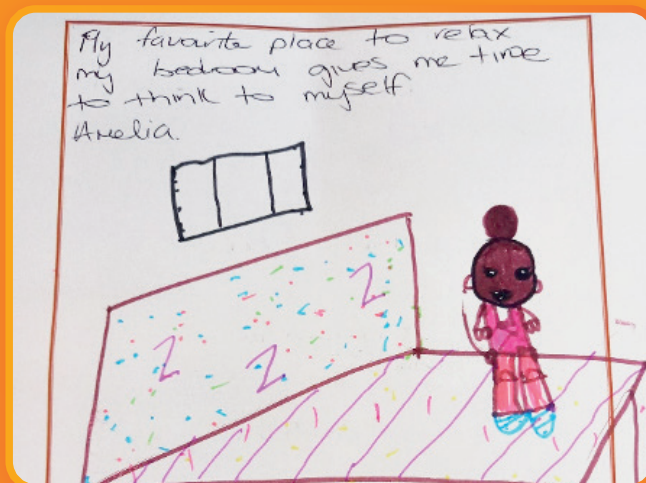
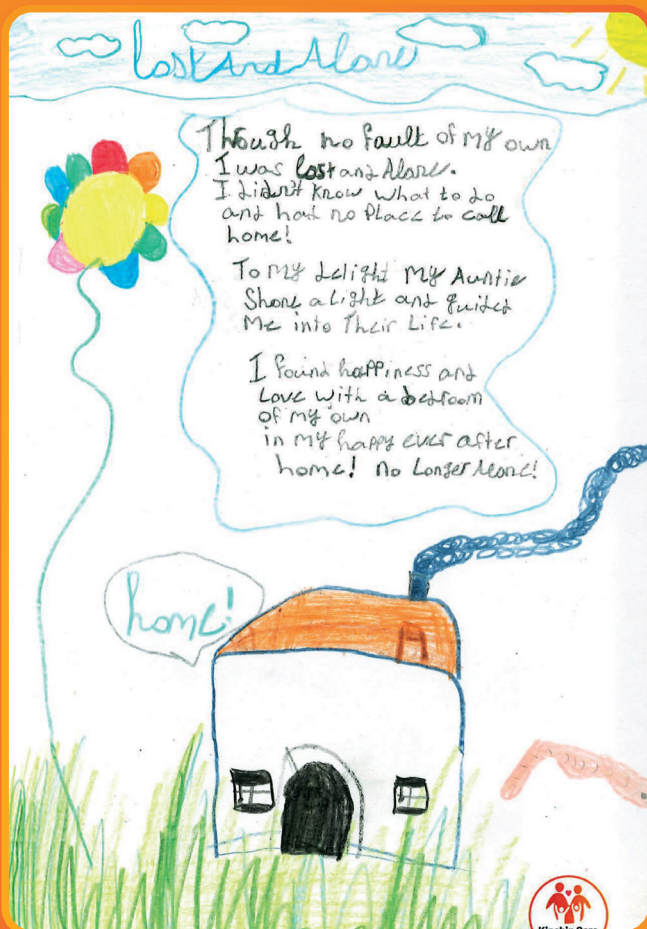
"She was hiding her face behind her fringe. She stands up tall again now and she's back smiling"



SUSAN MENTON, A VOICE- SCOPING EXERCISE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE:

"We're very lucky to have people who care about us and who look after us. It's much better cos we know them, and they know us, and we can trust them."

"You learn to have much more empathy for people cos you know what it feels like to be alone and frightened. You feel it for them."



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The National Federation of Services for Unmarried Parents and their Children

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INSIGHT INTO THE ESSENCE OF THE LOVE AND CARE BEING PROVIDED BY KINSHIP CARERS IN THIS DUBLIN BASED GROUP:

"Kinship carer of 6-year-old grandson who has additional needs; "When he's rocking back and forth against the wall, I know he needs self-soothing time. Every morning we dance in the kitchen, bringing back fun into his life is so important. He loves when I try to twerk!"

"Nobody is considering these children's mental health. All my love, hugs and kisses can't undo their trauma. They need early intervention- they needed it yesterday, and other support".

"sometimes the 5 year old falls into the mammy role, looking after the baby. I have to remind her every day- nanny is here to do that now, nanny is always here".



GRANDPARENTS OF TEENAGER:

"School is hard for him, that's where the behaviour/needs emerge. I make pancake batter every evening so that it's ready for him in the morning, little things like that. I heard him singing again there the other day, first time in a long time. When he is happy, it's contagious".

"He is my sunshine, I tell him that every day. He has additional needs and finds singing 'you are my sunshine' too overwhelming and gets triggered, but he likes to hear those words spoken to him."

"We have to help him adapt to the changes in his life – being apart from his other siblings the breakdown in his relationship with his parent – having to change school and his social circle "

