

LET'S TALK ABOUT HOMELESSNESS...

We know this can sometimes be a difficult conversation to have with young children, so we've put together some resources to help young people to start talking about homelessness.

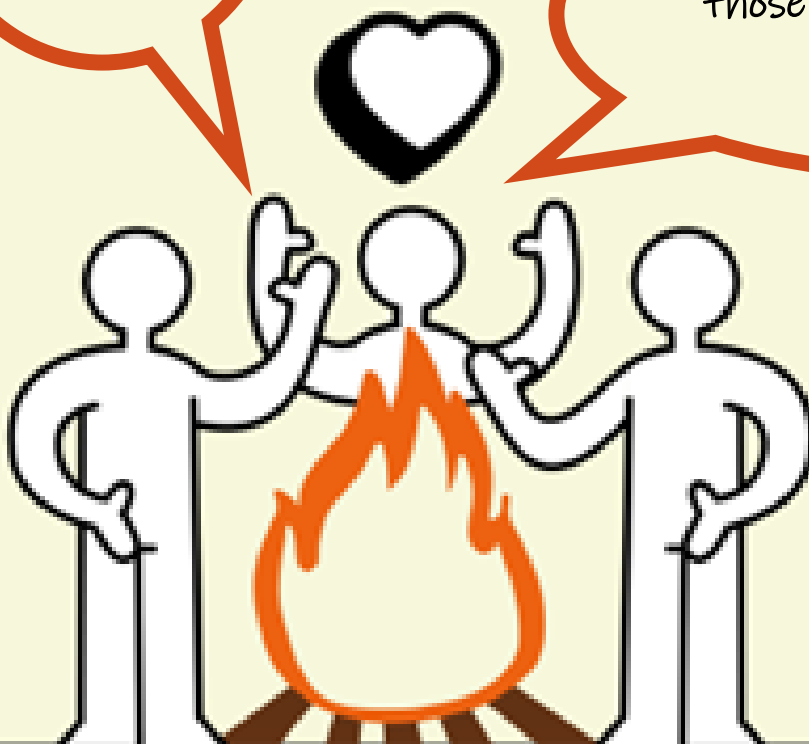
Below are some questions to help you get the conversation started...

Have you ever seen
somebody who is
homeless?

What made you
think they were
homeless?

Why might
somebody
become
homeless?

What can we do to support
those who are experiencing
homelessness?



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HOMELESSNESS CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE...

If Someone is living...

On the streets



In a hostel

In empty or abandoned buildings

In friends or families houses or sleeping in a car

There are many reasons that someone might become homeless...

A falling out with family and friends

Getting into financial difficulty or losing their job

A physical or mental health issue



There are a few simple ways that SIFA Fireside helps people who have no home...

providing food, clean clothes, a hot shower and a supportive ear

But there are also many other ways that we help people back into a home...



Financial advice and support

Legal advice

Connecting them with health and wellbeing services

Employment support

Its not always easy to know how best to support someone who you think might be homeless...

But if you support a charity like SIFA Fireside you know that we will be here when someone needs a little bit of extra support, from a hot meal to getting them back into a home

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HOMELESS?

Let's start with a quick mind map - what does it mean to be homeless? Write down your ideas, or draw some pictures. Bring it back to the importance of home, draw a picture of what home means to you, what do you think is important to have a happy and fulfilled life?



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LIVING FROM A RUCKSACK?

What items would you pack if you were to become homeless?

Have a think about the list below and what else you would want to keep...

Phone

Food

Money

ID

Photos of loved ones

Clothing

Sleeping bag

Waterproofs

Pets

Computer

Toiletries

Books



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WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO BE HOMELESS . . .

I'm all around you, hidden in plain sight.
Do you recognize me? Look again, I think you might.
I'm here in the sunshine, rain, sleet or snow.
Don't look through me. It's like, you don't want to know.
Remember? When I knew you things were good.
You were happy, laughing, always in a good mood.
Do I look familiar? Are my features ringing a bell?
You may have to look beyond this cold, hardened, wretched shell.
Remember when I had a home, a job, and never worried about money?
We used to share jokes with our friends, not all of them particularly funny.
We rode out some tough times, we occasionally cried.
Look at me again, but bear it in mind, that part of me died.
If you don't recognize me now, I'll give you another clue.
Look in a mirror, look closely, now you'll see it. That's right, I'm you.

Poem written by a client at SIFA Fireside; 2018

Try writing a poem or a short story from the perspective of someone who is homeless ...

1. Start by writing down some adjectives that describe how it might feel to be homeless.

2. Set the scene by imagining where you are.

What does it look like? Sound like even smell like?

3. Do you want to tell a story? How did you come to be here? How will you survive? Do you want to send a message or tell people how you feel?

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