

(Preamble)

What do we need from the school community?

SCHOOL

- **A place of welcome**
- **A safe and structured environment**
- **Fosters relationships with the Community Elders**
- **Adopting a Team approach**
- **Knowledge of outside agencies pertaining to refugees.**
- **Provide programs to help parents with basic issues around school life (swimming/sports carnivals, excursions, camps)**
- **Clear discipline guidelines**

TEACHERS



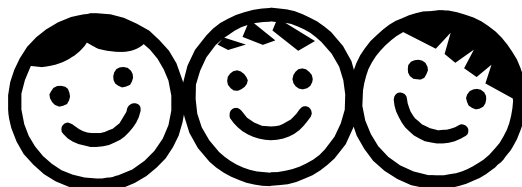
- Understanding refugees/background
- Some knowledge of the child's history
- Be able to implement appropriate pathways to learning
- Insight about trauma/ associated behaviours
- Strategies to assist children when overwhelmed or regressed
- Recognise when to debrief/self care/meet

CHILDREN



- Trusting relationships (key people)
- Safe ways to discharge powerful feelings
- Support/containment when out of control
- Incremental demands in the classroom (BL)
- Clear and firm directions
- Bodywork: music, instruments, breathwork, vigorous/calming activities (sand etc), 'braingym'
- "Body reading" skill – self soothing activities

- Cognitive frameworks - "Stop, think and act," "Stop and calm down," Mistakes and muckups.
- Social skills: Learning to play, taking turns, dealing with losing, please and thank you, asking for your needs.
- Play - for sheer fun
- Modelling and rehearsing situations



- Time out of classroom (if needed) or alternative activities that promote relaxation
- Books and stories
- Activities that build confidence and self esteem



GAPS AND CHALLENGES

The enormous changes for refugee families

(Limited humanitarian intervention)

(Family Support Workers would be invaluable)

Health issues

(Psychological intervention is an alien concept)

(Medical issues often go unaddressed/DENTAL)

Child care

(Women are sometimes caught between having traditional families and wanting to learn English at TAFE)

Employment

(Entering the job market has many challenges)

Long term settlement issues

(Social issues are emerging when "honeymoon" period is over for the adults. Men often very disempowered)

Parenting

Youth