

Western Australia Trials the 2020 Revised Silver Linings Programs for Primary Schools

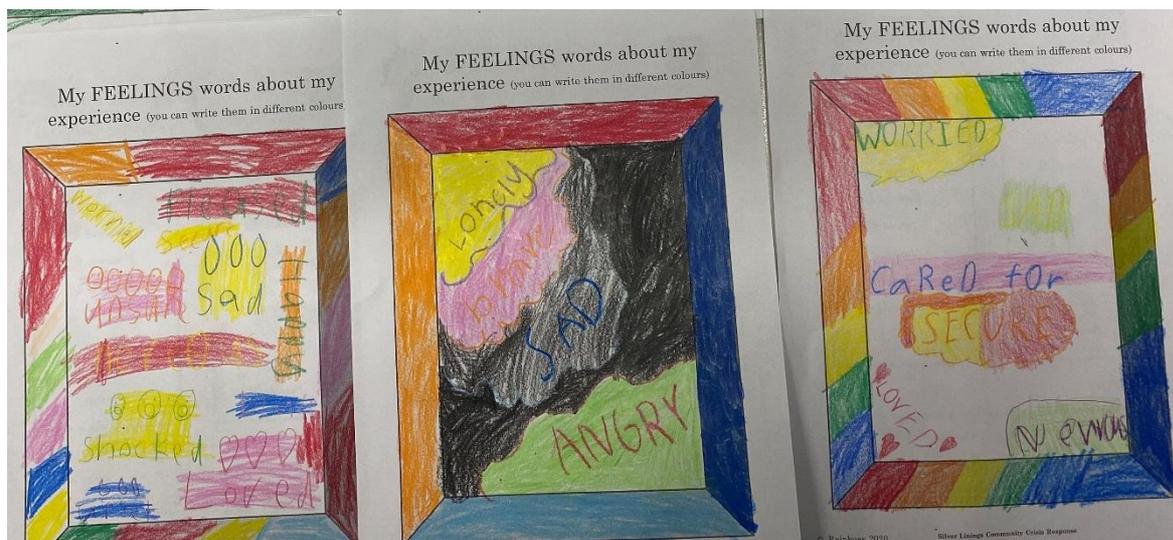
The Rainbows WA Team worked tirelessly during COVID-19 to update and revise the Silver Linings Community Crisis Response Programs to offer schools a way of reconnecting from the shared experiences of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, and being able to hold their grief, loss and trauma experiences.

In relative terms, the citizens of Western Australia have escaped the devastating impacts that COVID-19 has had on many communities around the world. Whilst teachers were keen to have specifically designed lessons to help with the return to normal schooling, they were unsure how severely the children had experienced loss, grief, and trauma in their lives and how much support would be needed.

The 3 programs were offered to all classroom teachers from Y1-Y6, to use and give feedback on suitability and relevance. Teachers were given the option of using all 6 sessions as a complete experience or use professional judgement and teach the sessions they thought were most useful for their classroom. Currently, Silver Linings is not specifically designed for Kindy and Pre Primary, but due to the differentiation within lesson activities that Rainbows WA added, Pre Primary and Kindy teachers were keen to try and or modify some of the activities. (the Kindy and PP program is currently being developed). Overall, the feedback was very positive from staff and students alike.

The students in Year 2 were very engaged with the Silver Linings activities. We discussed comfortable and uncomfortable feelings and shared what ones were felt during COVID-19 especially during the time of many restrictions and we couldn't go to school or see our friends. Some children felt angry and confused as they couldn't celebrate their birthdays as they had planned. Other students felt very cared for and loved as they got to spend so much more time with their parents. The children loved the discussion and were reminded of how important it is to talk about our feelings and know that often we are not the only ones feeling a certain way.

Justine Fitzpatrick Yr2 Teacher



Yr2 Work Samples

