

## Issues in child protection

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## Juvenile offenders

Abel & Harlow 2001 n=4007

- 20% of adult offenders were sexually abusing younger children before they were aged ten
- 43% when they were aged 10-15 years
- 70% by the time they were aged 19

## How big is the problem?

- 1 in 4-5 abused boys becomes an abuser  
1 in 3 girls are sexually abused before they leave school
- Offenders have committed more than 500 sex crimes by the age of 31 (Abel USA & Bentovim UK)  
Boys don't usually report it

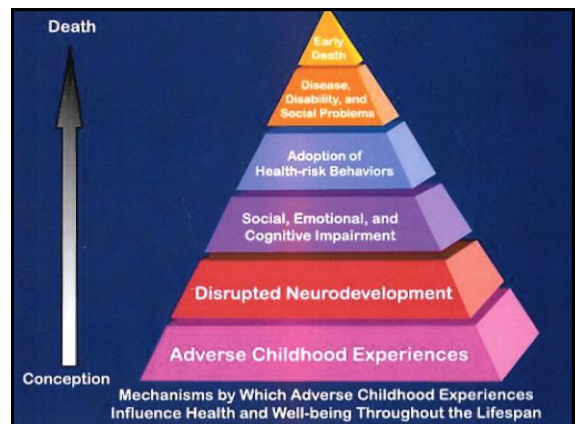
## Child sex abuse can damage brain development

Damage to young children can affect concentration, memory and therefore schooling (Bruce Perry)

- Damage to victims aged 10+ can increase risk-taking behaviour eg promiscuity, prostitution, violence pregnancy, substance abuse, STIs, crime (Anderson)

## Abuse is a major health issue :

- 70% of mental illness is due to child sex abuse - depression, self-harm, anorexia, bulimia, PTSD, suicide, substance abuse and related crimes (Glaser 2005)
- Trauma from abuse affects the immune system, increases physical illness & lifespan is shortened by 20 years (Felliti)
- Costs \$30 billion a year (Monash Uni research)



**Sydney Morning Herald:** "NSW Police Commissioner, Andrew Scipione said the community can no longer afford to turn a blind eye to child sex abuse. Police figures showed **more than half the sexual assault victims in NSW last year were children under 15, Of those, at least 10% were not yet 5 years old.** "Defying common misconceptions about "stranger danger", many had to share a dinner table and bathroom with their abuser, often a father or stepfather".

### **THE AGE 2014**

Victoria Police frightening new data reveals a 43% jump in child sex abuse cases in 5 years. Det. Supt Rod Jouning said the rate of abuse by family members and known others was horrendous. He said too many child victims were not coming forward 'We haven't even scratched the surface,' he said. 'Its happening behind closed doors, and we must talk about it.'

**Children were the victims in almost 3/4 of sex assault cases and 1/3rd of rape cases in Victoria in 2013. Large increases in offences against children under 10, and sex assaults by parents. More children in primary schools – some as young as five – are being counselled after instigating sexualised behaviour against fellow students.**

**THE AGE 2014**

Superintendent Jouning (VicPOL) reported increases in men approaching children online, pretending to be their age and getting them to send explicit images before extorting them for sex. He said a community fear of "stranger danger" clouded the fact that children were far more often abused by family members or people known to them.

**THE AGE SEPT 2014**

The scale of paedophile activity shocks Deputy Commissioner Graham Ashton. There are hundreds and hundreds" of offenders in Victoria."We have found some terrible stuff that would keep you awake at night," he told Fairfax Media. (AGE 20.9.2014)

### **NSPCC UK**

- 4 year old boys reported for raping boys
- 800 under 10 investigated for sex crimes
- Most were re-enacting their own abuse
- Some re-enacted rape scenes from violent video games seen in school playgrounds
- Children charged with sex crimes doubled in one year

## Significant drawings made by sexually abused young children

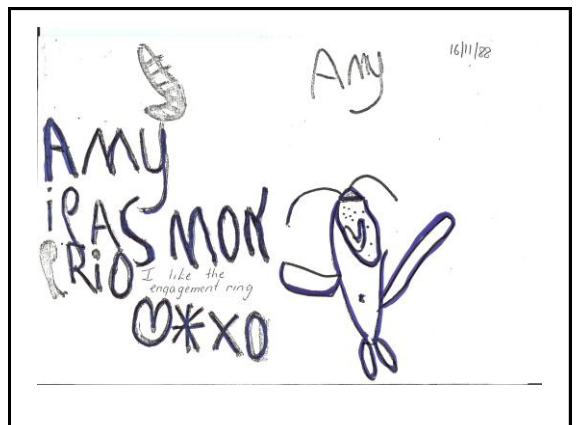
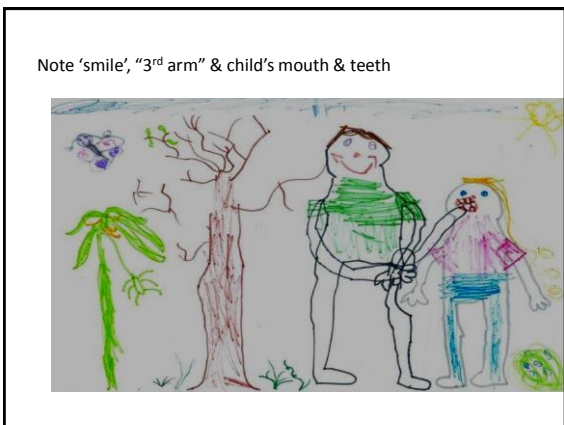
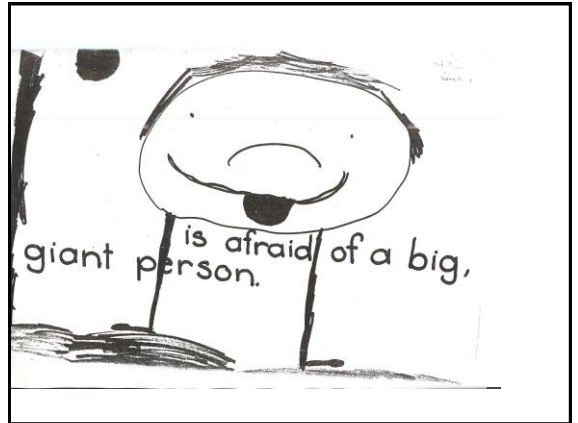
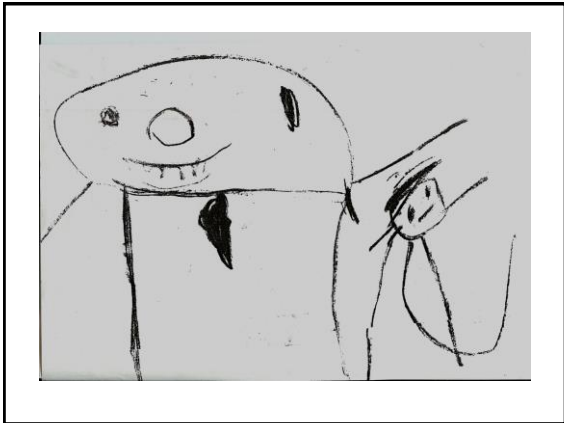
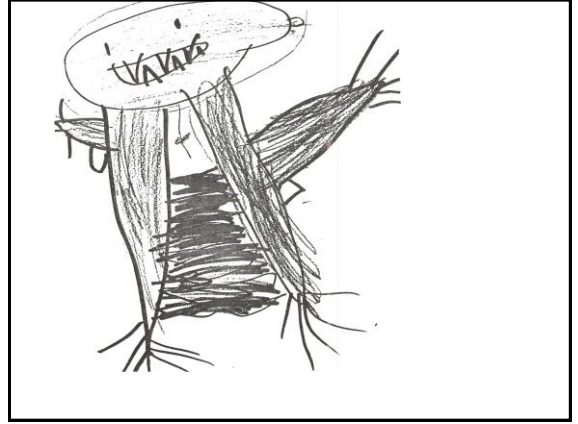
### Drawings are a tool for identifying child abuse

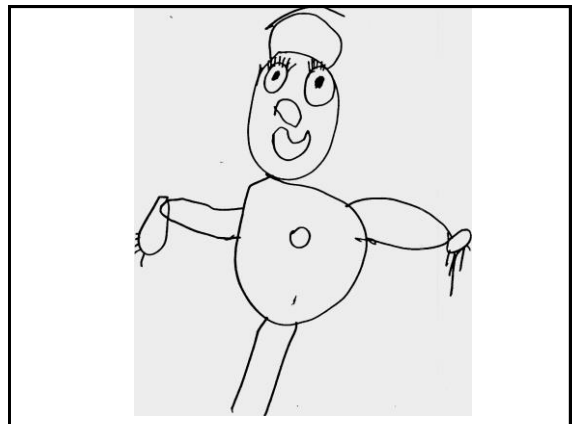
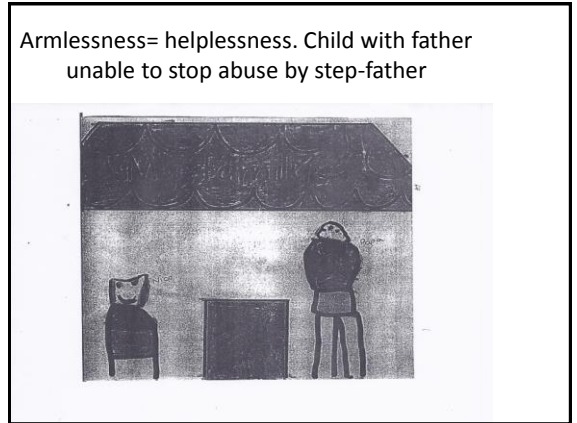
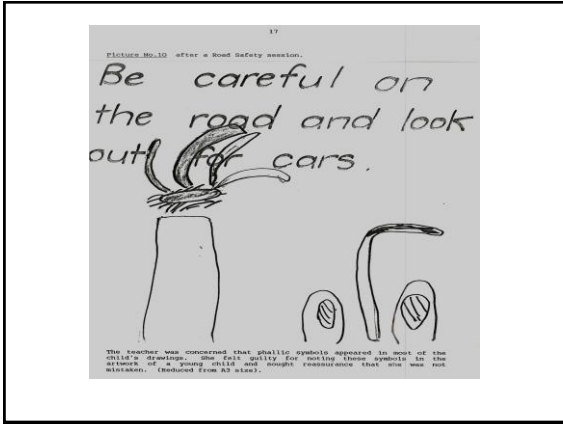
- Patterson & Hayne (2011) –Hamama (2013) McLeod, Gross & Hayene (2013), Allen & Tussey (2012) all found drawing increases the info children provide & gives clues for questions to ask. Drawings should be explored with the artist

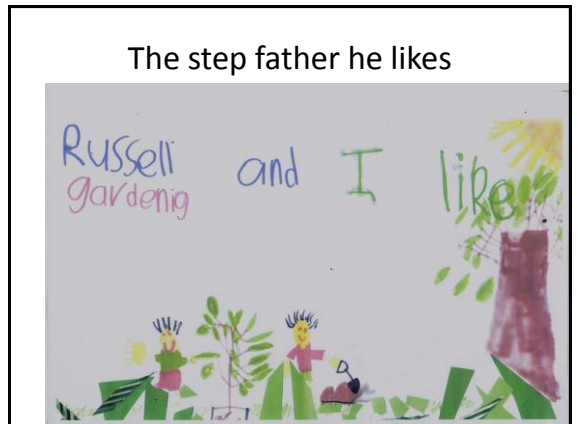
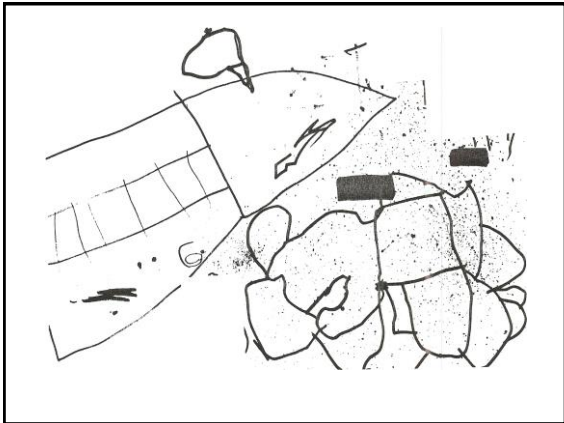
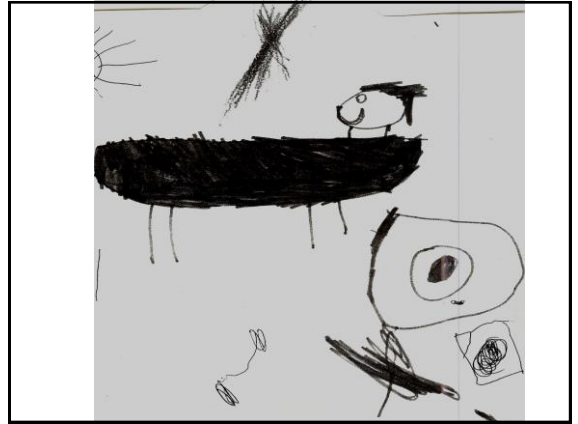
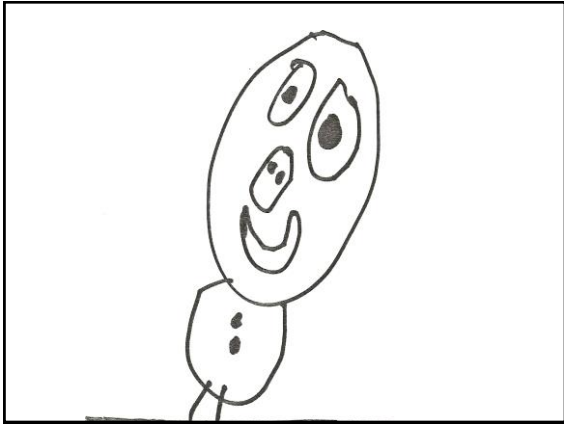
### Typical pictures of 5 yr olds

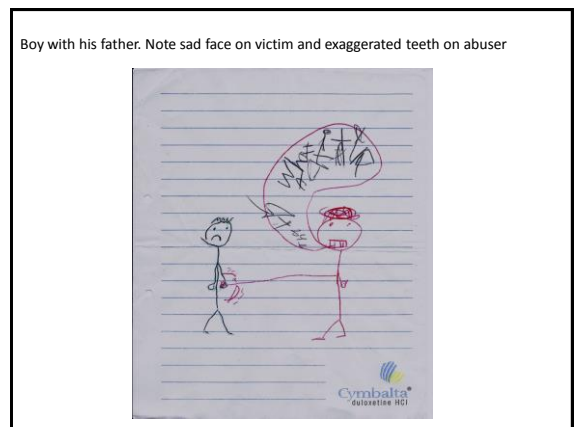
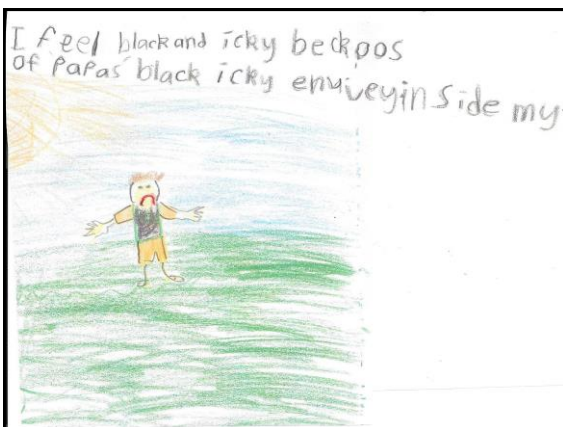
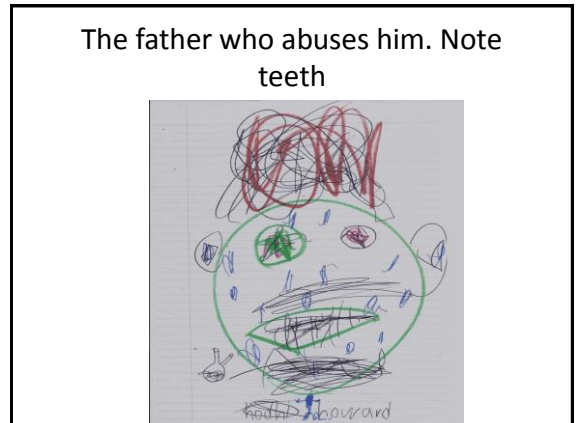
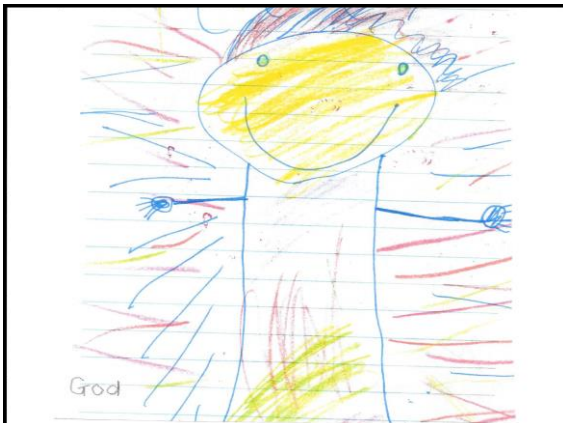
2 pictures depict breaking class rules. Red is used for danger representing sand thrown at child's head. Note smiling offender and sad victim showing awareness of emotional impact of behaviour depicted. All are fully clothed, securely attached to the ground with limbs and facial features

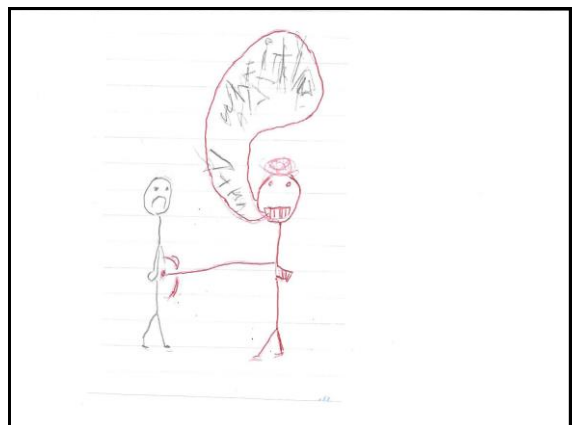
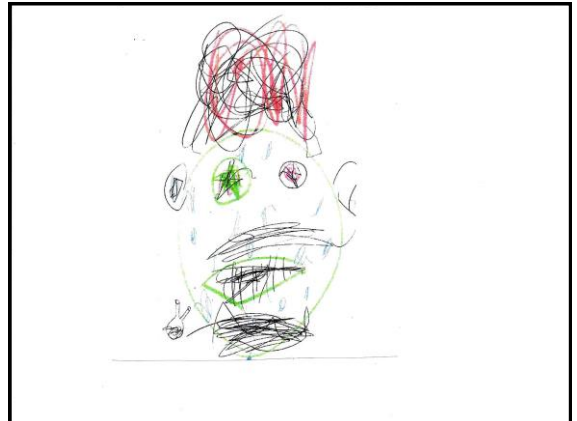
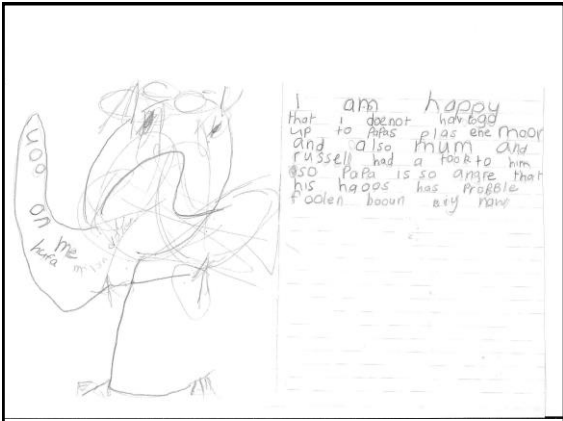
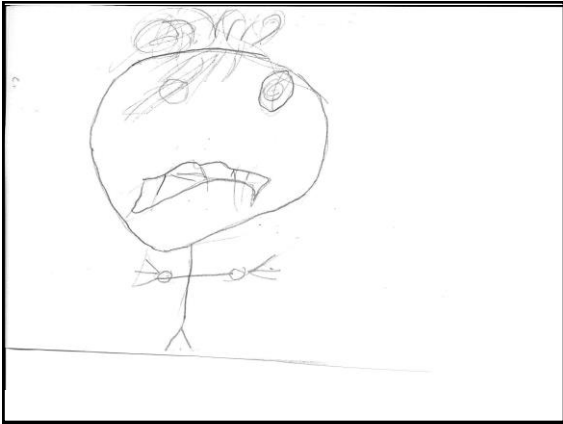




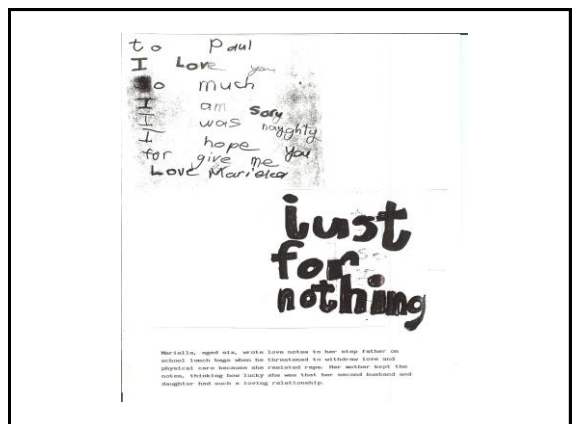
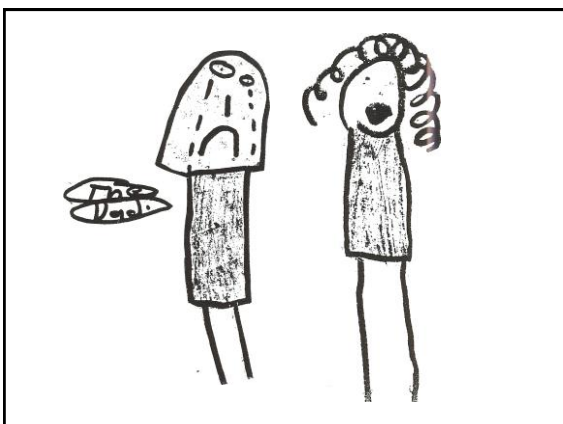
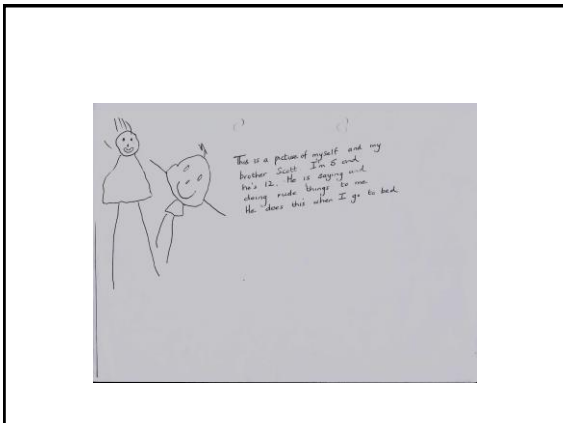
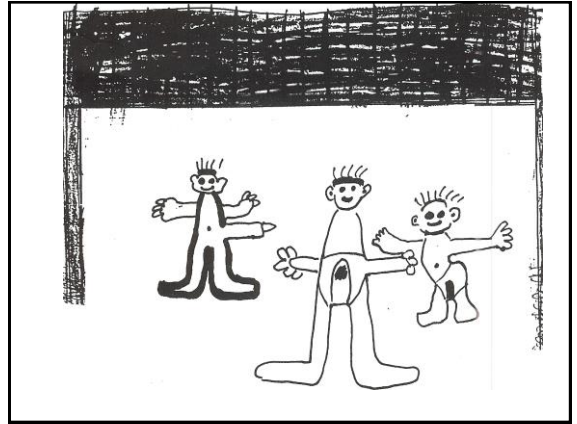
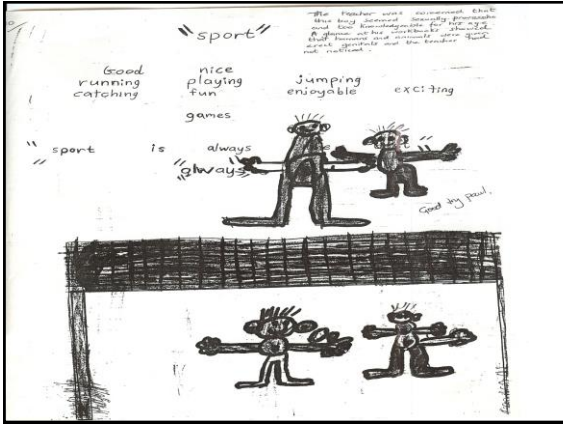






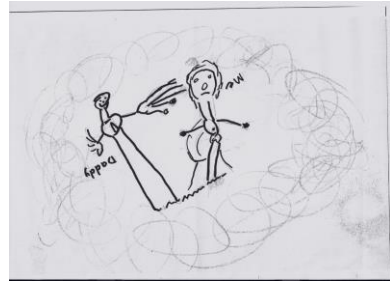




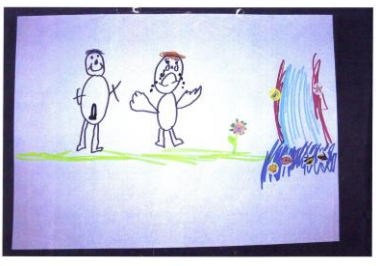




Note erect penis, big hands, smiling abuser and sad child



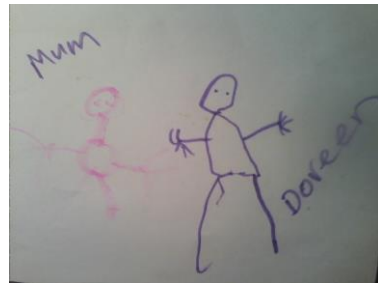
Explicit drawing. Note grin on dad's face and tears on self portrait



Child of 7 abused by female



When abuse is suspected, ask the child to draw the nicest, the scariest and the rudest person they know. Here is Sophie's "nicest"



Dad is the rudest person Sophie knows  
– note the mouth



When asked to draw the rudest person  
Sophie's brother wrote:



Mum is the nicest person he knows

