

Audio Transcript

David Page 3

Mom was weak after the delivery and dad was busy drinking and did not care much. I was wondering who was helping mom take care of me at that time.

David Page 5

As I thought about my early childhood, I was able to remember episodes of crying and crying after my Mom dropped me off at pre-kindergarten. I have memories of the teachers trying to comfort me. I remember how that felt.

I also remembered that I was one of the “tough” kids in class. Sometimes, I would be highly active, sometimes, I was so quiet. I had difficulties in interacting with other classmates and did not get along with them well. I got into trouble at school for kicking and hitting other classmates or using “bad words” that I heard my dad or brothers and sisters use at home. I learned at home if we didn’t do what someone wanted us to do we would get kicked, hit, or beaten.

David Page 11

Andy told me that the teacher at his school noticed his aggressive behaviors, so she suggested my mom seeking some help in managing his behavior. Then, mom decided to take him to a community program every week where both mom and Andy could get some counseling. During those sessions, mom was in a class with other parents learning about child management and problem-solving skills and he played with other kids in another room with another therapist.

Lucia Page 6

Mr. Hanson asked: “Tell me what happened to your arm?” I was afraid to tell the truth and didn’t say anything for a while Mr. Hanson was very patient and did not push or urge me. Finally, I told him the truth about what happened that night. Mr. Hanson explained that he was going to call my Mom. He also explained to me that he needed to call Child Protection Services to help us.

Lucia Page 13

At the shelter I went to a play group with 2 other kids—Jacob and Tasha. I made this book in the group. We would draw, color, and listen to music. I liked writing my story.

Lucia Page 16

When we were getting ready to leave the shelter to go to my Auntie’s house Cheryl, the shelter work, and I talked. We talked about all the questions I had for my mom. And about visiting with my Dad.

Alex Page 5

At the shelter, there wasn’t much for me to do. I couldn’t use my phone or the computer to talk to my friends. I felt alone and angry for having to leave OUR house. I was supposed to talk to a psychologist about my “trauma” and I hated it. I didn’t want to talk about stuff that happened in my family. I felt like I was being blamed for what happened. I just sat there and thought, “Why are you talking to me? Brian’s the one with the problem. Go talk to him and LEAVE ME ALONE!”