**Networks**

Molly’s Safety Network

Molly the monkey loves playing in the outdoors, jumping from branch to branch, high up in the trees.

She woke up this morning and ran to the kitchen. Mama monkey was in the kitchen when Molly appeared in the doorway. She ran up to Mama and gave her a big hug. “I’m off to play my favourite game in the trees” said Molly excitedly.

“Molly, I want to discuss something with you before you go out this morning” said mama monkey.

“Now that you have turned 5 years old, and stay out longer and longer each day, I sometimes worry about you. What would happen if there was a big storm and you got scared? So much can happen out there in the forest … you could get hurt if you slip off a branch, you could go walking so far that you get lost, maybe you get a fright when another big animal or a big bird come close to you unexpectedly. What would you do then and who can you ask to help you”?

Mama Monkey explain that Molly needed to have a network of adult friends whom she can talk with when she felt scared or unsafe. “Come on, let’s think together and work out a plan of who you might ask for help when you need it”.

Molly has so many friends in the forest and it was not difficult to come up with the names of some adults who she could ask to help her, when she needed it. Her network of adults included:

Tommy the Tiger / Kelly the Kangaroo / Ellie the Elephant / Hilda the Hippo / Leo the Lion

“Now I feel better Molly” said Mama. “Now I know that, if you need help while in the forest, you can ask any of these friends for help”.

Molly gave mama Monkey a big hug and off she went into the forest to meet up with all her monkey friends for a play.

**Debrief the story by asking the children:**

* What was Molly’s favourite game? (to jump from branch to branch, high up in the trees).
* Why did Mama want Molly to have a network of adult friends? (so that she could ask for help if she needed it).
* Why was it important to have more than one friend on her network? (in case one of her adult friends were not available on the day.
* Why was it important to think about a Safety Network before Molly needed help? (because Molly may be so worried that she cannot think of someone when she is upset).

One or two more questions