<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SERVICE AREA</strong></th>
<th>Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO DOES THIS PROGRAM SERVE?</strong></td>
<td>“Creating Connections” is designed for mothers and their children between the ages of 4 and 18 years who have experienced domestic violence. Witnessing can mean seeing or hearing a violent exchange.</td>
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<td><strong>PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM</strong></td>
<td>“Creating Connections” provides mothers and their children with structured group sessions, where they can share and work towards healing from the violence they’ve experienced and witnessed in their own home.</td>
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<td><strong>PROGRAM DESCRIPTION</strong></td>
<td>Children are matched in groups within three year age ranges – for example, 4 to 6 year olds, 7 to 9 year olds, etc. Groups are facilitated by 2 trained facilitators in each of the Children’s and Mothers’ groups. Groups meet for 1½ hours a week over 10 weeks. At each group session, mothers and their children start out together and are introduced to the topic for that session. The mothers and children then separate into 2 distinct groups, running simultaneously, for activities and discussion. At the end of the session, the mothers and children come back together before leaving. Transportation to and from each group is provided for those who do not have their own private transportation. Children must be returning to a safe environment after each group session, and must not be returning to the perpetrator’s home that particular evening.</td>
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<td><strong>WAIT TIMES</strong></td>
<td>Wait times vary, but are about 1 year, depending on the number of children on the wait list within the age-range groupings. Available funding to run the programs is also a factor.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACCESSING SERVICE</strong></td>
<td>Referrals to “Creating Connections” can be made by any social service or health professional, with the consent of the mother. Children 12 years of age and older must consent, as well. Contact Algoma Family Services (AFS) in Sault Ste. Marie at (705) 945-5050 (or toll free 1 800-461-2237 from the District) to obtain a referral form, which must then be completed and returned to AFS, to the attention of the Coordinator of the Child Witness Program.</td>
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</tbody>
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- Services are available in French – as requested
- Services are available in First Nations communities – as requested