

MY VOICE MATTERS

A SAFE PLACE TO TELL MY TRUTH



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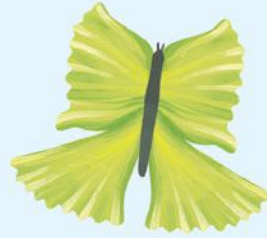


NORTHERN MICHIGAN
Children's Assessment Center

Giving the most Vulnerable a Voice

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Perhaps the butterfly is proof that you can go through a great deal of darkness, yet become something beautiful.

– From your friends at the



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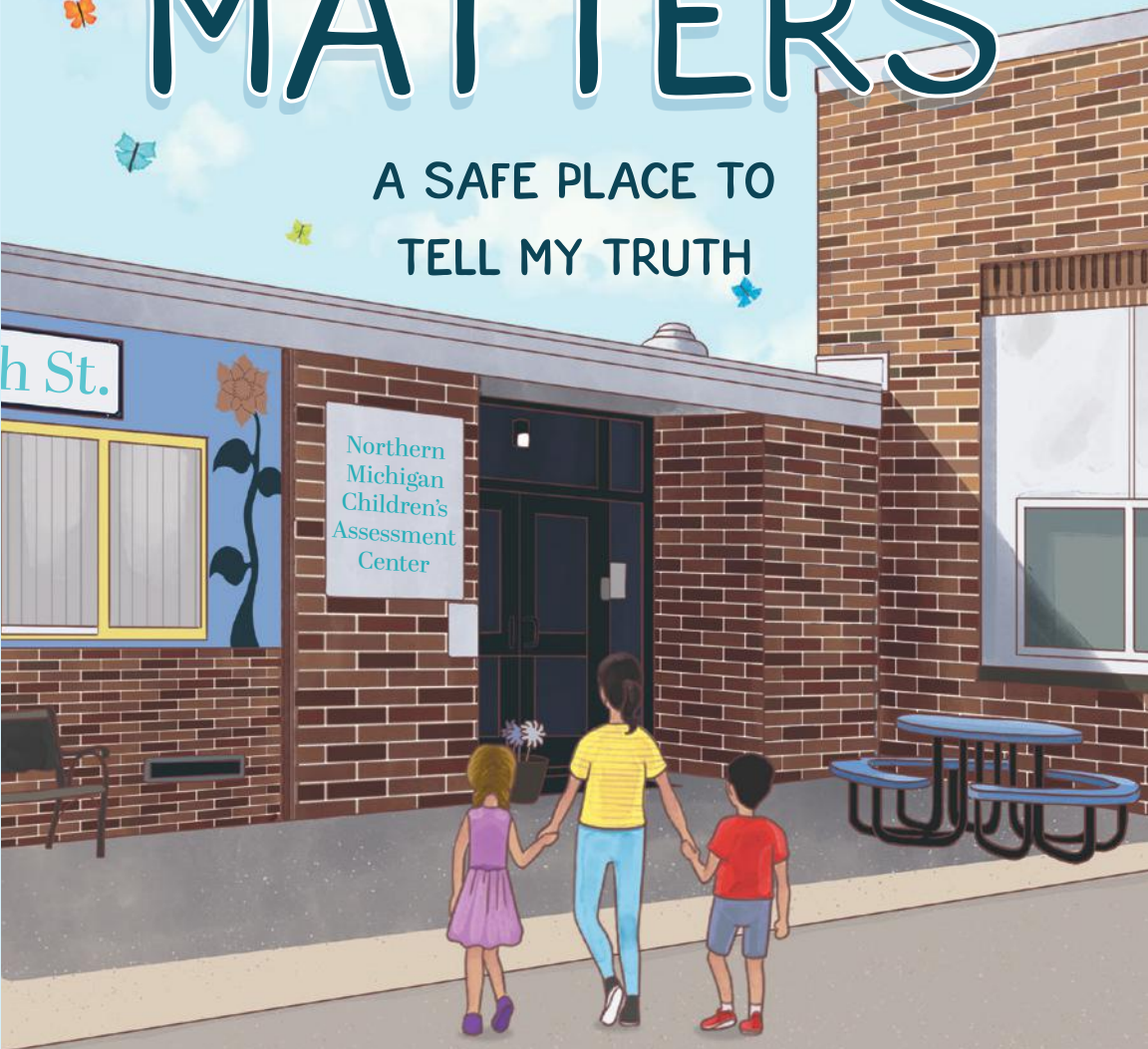
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This is a support tool. This is not a guarantee of the members assigned to your advocacy team. Your team may be comprised of different individuals than those listed in the book. Any names, genders, and resemblances of characters may differ from the people you work with during your multidisciplinary team process.

MY VOICE MATTERS

A SAFE PLACE TO
TELL MY TRUTH



WRITTEN BY RYLEE TUGGLE

ILLUSTRATED BY LAURENTIU GABRIEL DUMITRU

Hi, I'm with the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center. At our center we are here to **listen** and **support** you. That means you can ask us any questions or tell us how you're feeling. It's okay if you're feeling scared or nervous. Meeting new people can make us feel like there are butterflies in our bellies.



I am going to tell you about your visit and your support team.
Your team is a group of people who work to keep you safe.
Each of your team members has a special job.



When you get here, your **family advocate** will be here to **welcome** you. She will stay with you most of the time you visit with us. When she is not with you, she will make sure you are not alone.



Your family advocate will explain what you will be doing at our center. Then she will introduce you to your forensic interviewer. A forensic interviewer is someone who will listen to you. But first she will need to talk to your grown-up.

Life is good Life is great
Always love and never hate
Break the rules stand up for it
Ignore your head and follow your heart

A year from now
you will wish you had
started Today



While they are talking, the family advocate will stay with you. You could play games, watch movies, or color with her. If you'd like to do something else, just let her know!



When your grown-up finishes meeting with the forensic interviewer, they will come back out to see you.

Life is good Life is great
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Next, it will be your turn to go with the forensic interviewer. If you have siblings, you might take turns talking with the interviewer. Remember, the forensic interviewer is someone who **listens** to kids. She listens carefully because **your voice matters**.



Your forensic interviewer will have lots of questions for you. She also knows you might feel nervous about talking with her. When you are ready to talk, she will be ready to listen.



When everyone is finished talking, your grown-up will be patiently waiting for you. Relax, you did a great job.



There will be one more meeting for the grown-ups and then you will be finished for the day!



You may get to come back on different days to meet more members of your team. They may be our medical friends, like a **doctor** or **nurse**. Their jobs are to make sure **you** and **your body** are safe.



When you visit the medical team,
you can ask them anything.





Another day, you may come back and have a chance to meet our **counselors**. Their job is to help you through any big **feelings** or **emotions** you might have.



Remember, **all of us** on your team are here for **you**.
We are ready to **answer** any questions you have for us.
We can't wait to meet you and say **hello!**





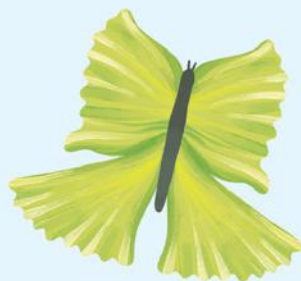


YOUR ADVOCACY TEAM

We are your advocacy team.
We are here for you! Here's how you can reach us:



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This book was created in partnership with the Northern Michigan Alliance for Children (NMAC), an organization that provides healing, hope, and justice to abused children in rural Michigan. It was their dream that the book could be replicated to help children across the world. If you have an organization in mind that might benefit from having their own customized copy of this book, please visit www.mikids.org/book or www.booksbyrylee.com/my-voice-matters.





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