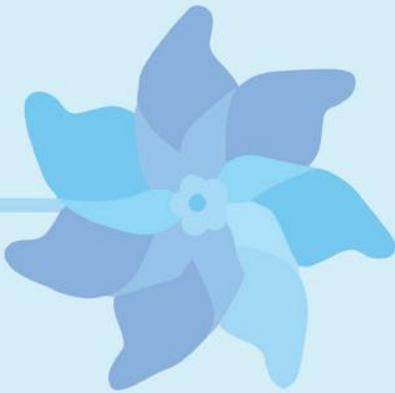


MY VOICE MATTERS

A SAFE PLACE TO TELL MY TRUTH



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To all of the children who trusted us with your truth, thank you for believing in us. For all the children we have yet to see, we look forward to earning your trust.

– From your friends at



Healing begins with us.



This project was originally supported by Federal Award 2018-V2-GX-0067 from the Department of Justice, administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Victim Services.



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This is an Adapted Edition (Adapted Ninth Edition), for Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center. It is based on *My Voice Matters: A Safe Place to Tell My Truth* (2021), created in partnership with the Northern Michigan Alliance for Children (NMAC).

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ISBN: 978-1-68599-009-1

Printed in the United States of America

First printing 2022


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



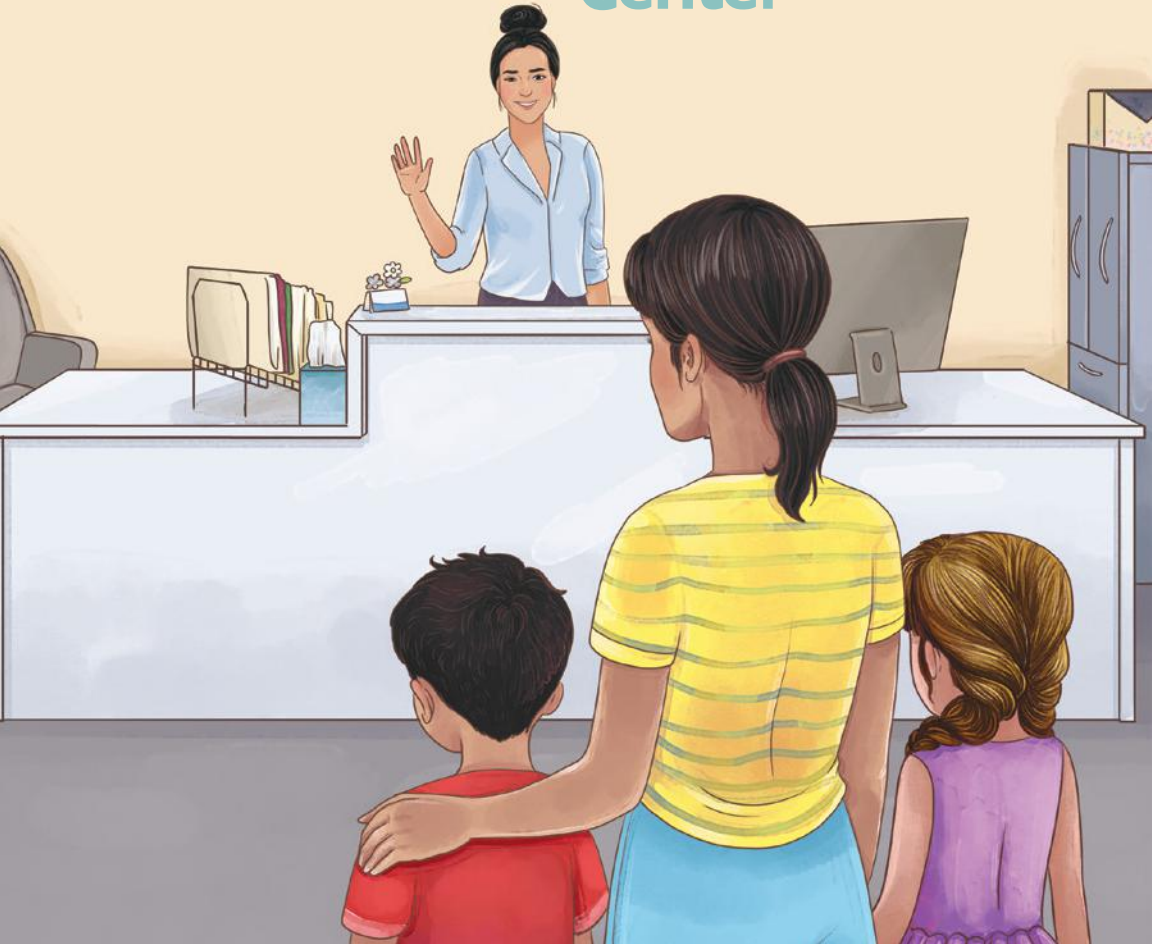
Hi, I'm with the Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center. Here at our center, we will **listen** to you and **support** you, however you need. This means you can always ask us any questions you have, and we will listen to you. It's okay if you're feeling nervous. Sometimes, meeting new people can make us feel like there are butterflies in our bellies.

I am going to tell you about some members of your **team** and what you will do when you visit our center. Your team is made up of many different types of professionals who work to keep you **safe**. Each of your team members has a special job, and they are ready to learn all about **you**.



When you come see us, a member of the team will be here to welcome you and anybody you bring along. They will show you where the toys are and where you can wait for the rest of the team.

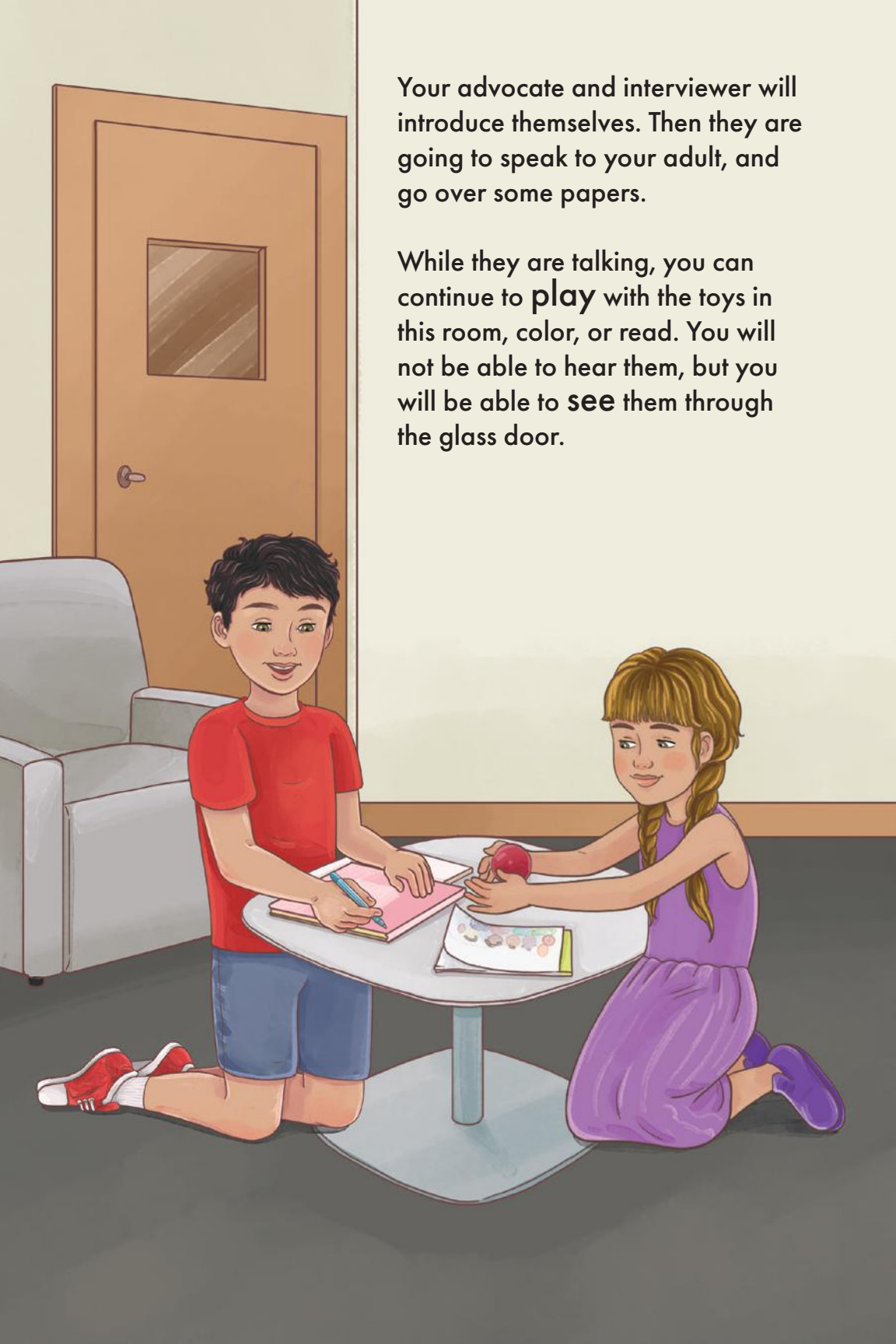
Then you will meet two of your team members: your **advocate** and your **interviewer**. Your advocate's job is to **support** you and your adult. They do this by talking to your adult, giving them information, and helping you feel comfortable and safe.





Your advocate and interviewer will introduce themselves. Then they are going to speak to your adult, and go over some papers.

While they are talking, you can continue to **play** with the toys in this room, color, or read. You will not be able to hear them, but you will be able to **see** them through the glass door.





When they are done talking, your adult will stay with you while your **interviewer** goes and gets the interview room ready. An interviewer is someone who **listens** and asks questions to kids. We have three different interview rooms. The interviewer will pick the best room for you.



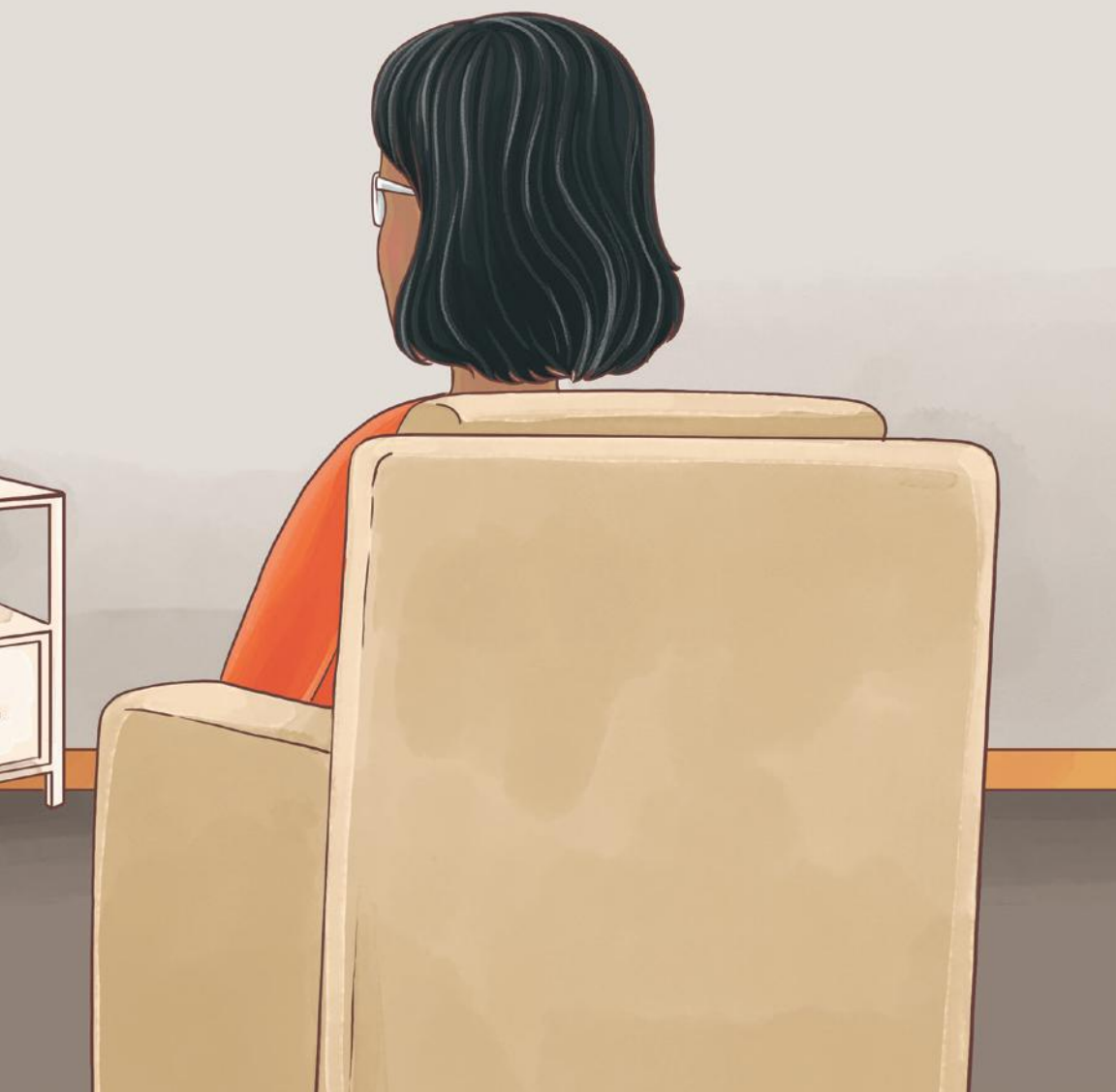
When it's your turn to talk with the interviewer, your advocate will stay behind to talk more with your adult.



When you share your truth, the interviewer will listen **carefully** to what you say. They listen carefully because **your words matter!**



Our interviewer will have lots of questions for you. They know that some of the questions may be hard for you to answer. They want you to know that it is **okay** to take your time answering the questions.



When you're done talking with the interviewer, your adult will be waiting patiently for you. You can choose to play with some toys or activities while your adult is meeting with your team one more time.



Your team meets with your adult to make sure they understand everything they need to know. If you have any questions, **YOU** can always ask!



After your visit to our center, you may feel like you need someone to help you understand your feelings and work through them. We have **counselors** who will do just that!







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!**

2000 SUITE 3





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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