



The Wizard and Fairy Tool:

Vania Da Paz, a Senior Practice Development Officer working in the Western Australian Department for Child Protection, was involved in the 1996 Signs of Safety six-month development project. Vania has always been determined to "Find ways to involve children and young people in her child protection practice and following the initial training in Signs of Safety she developed a very similar tool that serves the same purpose as the Three Houses tool but with different graphic representation.

Rather than Three Houses, Da Paz explores the same three questions using a drawing of a fairy with a magic wand or a Wizard. The method often breaks the ice for preschool and early primary school aged children since young children engage quickly with the picture of the wizard or fairy.

The worker can present the child with a pre-drawn outline or begin with a blank page and draw the wizard or fairy from scratch asking the child to help depending on what best suits the situation.

Da Paz uses the Fairy's/Wizard's clothes to explore and write down, together with the child, the problems/worries from the child's perspective.

The Fairy's wings and the Wizard's cape represent the good things or what's working well in the child's life, since the wings enable the Fairy to 'fly away' or 'escape' her problems; and the cape 'protects' the young Wizard and 'makes his problems invisible for a little while'.

In the star of the Fairy's wand, and in the spell bubble at the end of the Wizard's wand, the worker and the child record the child's wishes, vision of their life, and the way they would want it to be and explores hopes for the future.