

*Help us fill this room with toys*



*"For children, toys are their words, and play is their conversation"*

Charles E. Schaefer, Father of Play Therapy



Each year, DVIP helps over 170 children affected by domestic abuse. Some have spent years hiding in the next room trying not to listen to the sound of objects being thrown or raised voices. Others have been caught up in the physical, verbal or sexual violence themselves, and it is common to hear stories of young people trying to act as a 'human shield' to protect a loved one.

These children are silent witnesses to what are often unspeakable incidents. Many suffer from nightmares and struggle to regulate their emotions, either displaying huge amounts of anger or quietly internalising their fear and anxiety as a result of the trauma.

DVIP's Children's Therapy Service offers a safe space for that silence to be broken.

Through specialist creative and play therapy, we allow young people to begin to process and recover from their experiences of domestic abuse. The toys and creative materials our therapists use are valuable tools in enabling these children to express difficult emotions and tell their stories.

Having the right tools can make a huge difference to a child's therapeutic journey.

DVIP has 7 children's therapy rooms at sites across London. Help us fill these rooms, like the one above, with the inclusive toys and materials we need to meet the needs of the different age groups, genders, religions, cultures and abilities of the children we see – and help them [#beachildagain](#).

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