

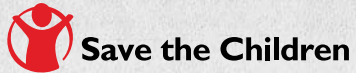
Kinship Care Album

Syrian refugee children in Jordan



BREAKTHROUGH

“All children thrive in a safe family environment and no child is placed in harmful institutions”



WE ARE the world's leading independent organisation for children.

OUR VISION is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

OUR MISSION is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.



WE ARE the Information and Research Center – King Hussein Foundation (IRCKHF)

VISION: To be a leading applied research establishment in Jordan and the region for effective socio-economic planning and decision making.

MISSION: Conduct and disseminate multi-disciplinary applied research and analysis for practitioners, policy makers and advocates to improve the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities through effective socio-economic planning and decision-making.

Researching Kinship Care of Syrian Refugee Children in Jordan

This Album on Kinship Care is a compilation of the works of Syrian refugee children in kinship care and their adult caregivers who took part in the participatory action research undertaken by Save the Children and the Information and Research Center – King Hussein Foundation in Jordan in 2014 in the Zaatari Camp and in the city of Amman.

Children actively participated in the data collection, analysis, and recommendations on the lives of Syrian refugee children living in kinship care in Jordan – the positive and negative aspects of living with kin caregivers and the factors and practices that strengthen or undermine children's care, protection and participation within families and communities.

This album showcase one example of the way in which child led documentation was a central tenet of this peer to peer research process, enabling children to communicate their perspectives and their message to their communities and at national level. Bringing together contributions from two contexts of refugees in kinship care the album provides also a platform for voices to be heard at regional and global level.

All necessary child safeguarding measures and ethical considerations were taken and respected in the process of compiling this research and album. All names have been changed to ensure anonymity and to safeguard the children involved.

Foreword

All children have the right to protection, and the first line of protection for children is the family. We believe that children are best protected and cared for in a safe family environment, ideally with their own biological families. When that is not possible, then a family or community-based alternative such as kinship care is preferred, however such care needs to be supported and monitored to ensure the safety and best interests of the child.

This research focused on the participation of children in order to uphold their right to express their views freely and learn and understand the phenomenon of being a refugee in kinship care as it concerns them. Participatory action research, or peer research, provides an authentic and inside perspective on the matter and has the potential to empower the peer researchers as it boosts their confidence and self-esteem as they exchange ideas

and develop a greater awareness of others like themselves.

The children who participated in this research are not only without parental care but also victims of an emergency situation. They have fled Syria and are now living in over-stretched refugee camps or villages.

This research is especially important due to the lack of evidence of kinship care for unaccompanied and separated children, the main alternative care model used by communities for UASC in the Syria crisis.

Strengthening kinship care for children without appropriate care and building the evidence can help us provide culturally acceptable solutions to the problem of all children deprived of parental care in the region. We hope that the research findings will allow us to advocate and improve legislation and policies of kinship care as a form of alternative care.

This album will provide you with a glimpse of what Syrian refugee children and caregivers in Amman and inside the camp think, what are their opinions and ideas through a collection of their drawings, photos, and writings.

We would especially like to thank the children and caregivers for their exceptional contributions, participation, and commitment to this research project and album. We urge you to consider the messages being shared and illustrated in the following pages to ensure that children are protected and are able to live in peaceful and happy homes.

Lena Karlsson

Director, Child Protection Initiative

Aida A. Essaid

Director, IRCKHF

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PART 1

Understanding Kinship Care

Exploratory tools



Children and caregivers using trend analysis and exploring care options and factors influencing kinship care during the training and the data collection in Zaatar Camp.



Boys in Zaatar Camp working on the 'Body Map' tool to identify positive and negative experiences for children living in kinship care.

Kinship care

Family-based care within the child's extended family or with close friends of the family known to the child, whether formal or informal in nature.

** In this research, all caregivers were part of the child's extended family (none were close family friends).*

Body mapping



Girls in Amman use the 'Body Mapping' tool to collect data.

Child researchers from Zaatari Camp use the 'Body Map' tool to explore the positive and negative experiences of kinship care.



Caregivers from Zaatari Camp writing stories on the factors that affect children living in kinship care.

Interviews

Children and caregivers in Zaatari Camp receive training on how to conduct interviews with their peers. Each group consisted of an interviewer, interviewee, and an observer.





Amman

Children and caregivers in Amman and Zaatari Camp working on the 'Resources Map'



Zaatari Camp

Working in teams

Zaatari Camp Local Research Team



Children as researchers



Children who participated in the research activities in Amman.



Children in Amman working on the positive and negative factors of kinship care.



Value Line Discussion



Caregivers in Amman.

Visualisations



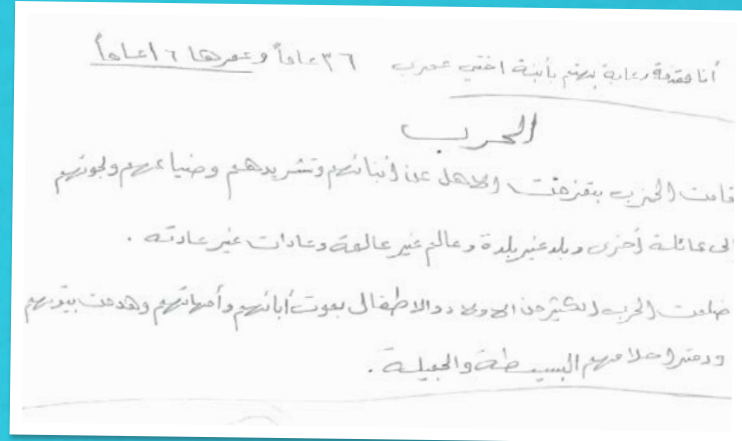
Children in Amman working on the 'Me Map' tool



PART 2

Living in Kinship Care

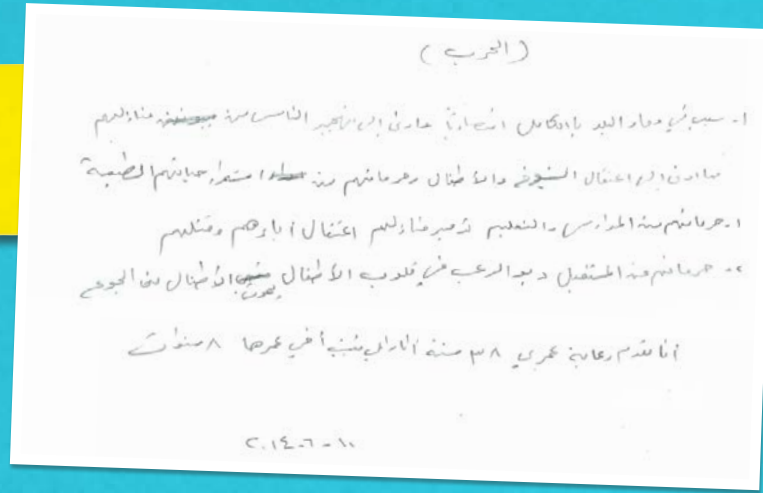
'War and the destruction of homes.' A 15 year old boy living with his grandfather in Zaatari Camp.



"The war led to the separation of parents from their children leaving the children homeless and seeking refuge with another family and country with traditions that are different then the children's traditions. The war caused injustice for many children through the death of their mothers and fathers and it destroyed their homes and their simple and beautiful dreams."

A 36 year old female caregiver in Zaatari Camp taking care of her sister's four children.

Armed conflict and violence



“The war was the reason behind damaging the country economically and led to the displacement of people from their homes, as well as the arrest of elderly and children depriving them from a chance to continue living normally. Deprived children from school and education, and destruction of their homes and arrested and killed their fathers.

Deprived children from the future, terrorized them, and they died from hunger.”

A male caregiver taking care of his brother's daughter in Amman

“During the conflict in Syria my brother and his wife clashed and they got a divorce. From that day I started taking of my brother's children and raising them ...

I am trying my best to provide everything suitable for them and to compensate them for being deprived of their parents. Later, the kidnapping of women began in Syria so we came to Jordan to protect the children from the war. Based on its letters, ‘war’ is a simple word; however in reality, its meaning is enormous.”

A female caregiver taking care of her brother's four children in Amman



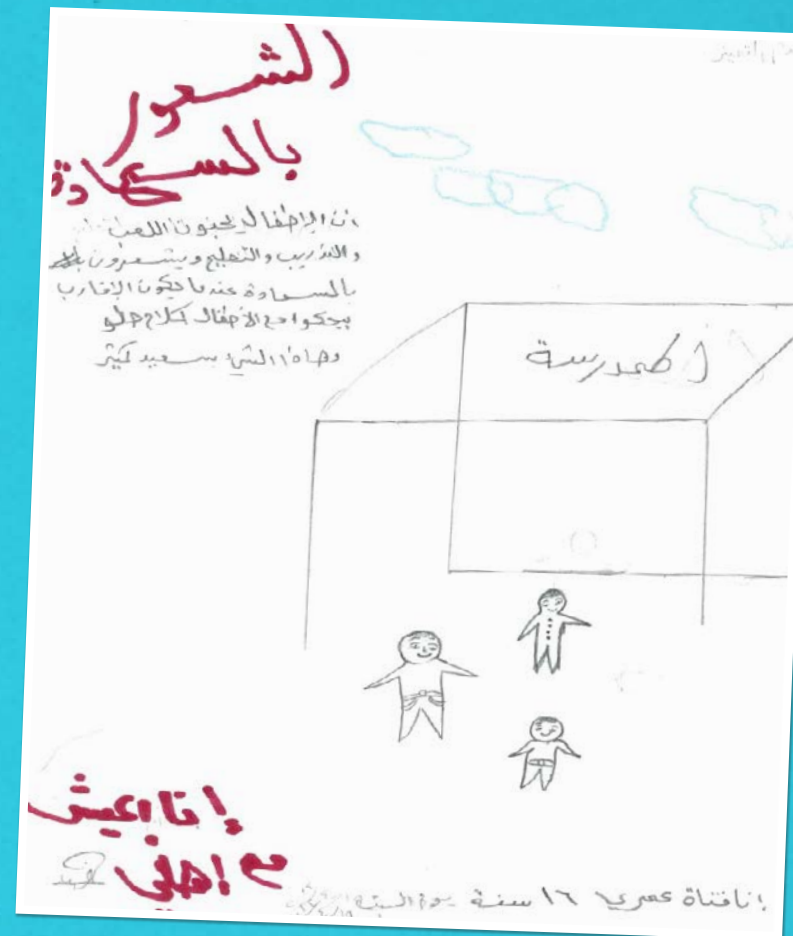
Lack of access to education

"Children living with their parents go to the school while the child who lives with relatives don't go to the school and stay at home."



This picture shows one of the most significant challenges faced by some children living with relatives, which is the deprivation from education.

A 14 year old boy living with his family in Zaatari Camp



FEELING
HAPPY
"Children love to play and learn. They feel happy when their relatives talk to them and use sweet words."

A 16 year old girl living with her family in Zaatari Camp.

The drawing shows a school and students.

"Education is a white rose no one can cut it except the intelligent. Education is a light while ignorance is darkness. Education is a huge ship and we are sailors on it."

A 17 year old girl living with her aunt in Zaatar Camp.



← **'Discrimination and education'** This drawing describes 2 boys going to school and the separated child living in kinship care is crying and working with wood.

A 19 year old boy in Zaatar Camp.

Play and leisure



HAPPINESS

A girl lives a happy life with her aunt, every day she goes to several beautiful places such as the market and hiking. She sits under the tree with her cousins. At 2:03 she goes to her home to study, and she can play in play areas. But she has a specific objective which is to complete her education and be happy.

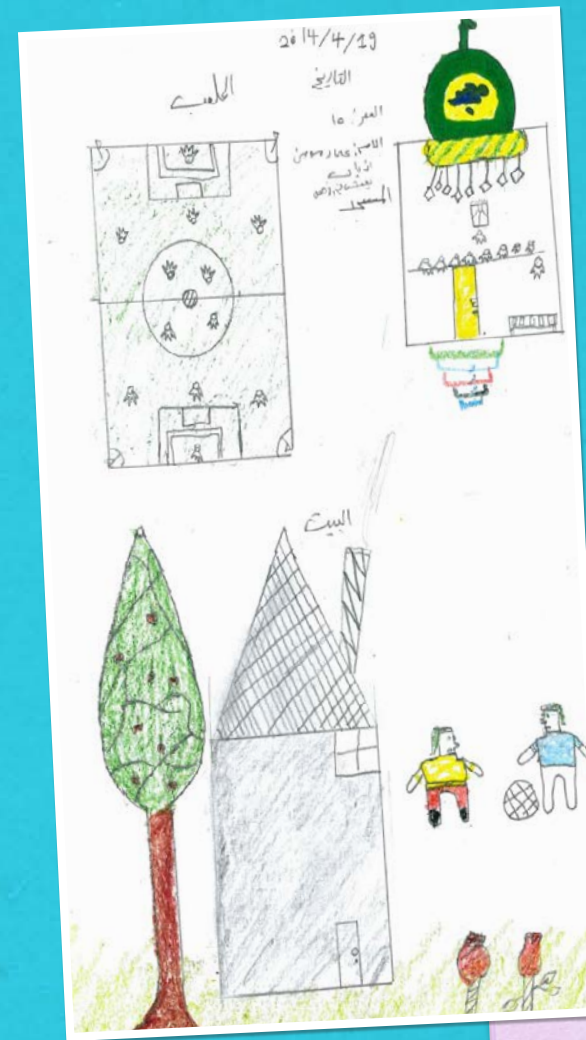
A 15 year old girl living with her aunt in Zaatar Camp.

Meeting Children's Needs



This picture shows what she usually does during the day. “I like sitting under the tree and I love flowers. I also love playing football with my friend.”

A 13 year old girl living with her maternal grandmother and aunt in Amman.



A child is living with his uncle:

Child: Uncle, can you please buy me a football ball?

Uncle: I will buy it for you.

The child is happy 😊 On the second day;

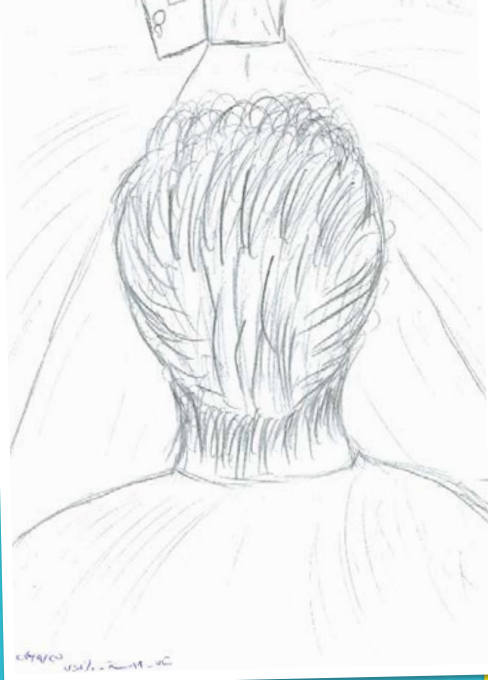
Uncle: I bought for you the football, take it.

The child so happy 😊 and said: thank you!

Uncle: do you need anything else?

Child: thank you! for you Uncle I will play football and go to the mosque and obey your orders...

A 15 year old boy living
with his family in Zaatari Camp



This drawing describes the limited mobility of children living in kinship care. A child is looking at the open house door but not able to go outside.

A 19 year old boy living in Zaatari Camp.

Limited mobility



14 year old boy living with his family in Zaatari Camp. He describes 'child abuse' when the caregiver beats his kin child.



'Discrimination'

This drawing shows a boy walking with his father somewhere with a new a balloon he bought for him. The separated child living in kinship care is looking at them and crying.

A 19 year old boy living in Zaatari Camp.

'There was a boy whose parents passed away so he had to go and live with his uncle. His paternal uncle was very tough. He was deprived from everything. One day he asked his uncle to go to the park but his uncle refused and told him: "hey boy, stay at home, you cannot move from here".'

A 13 year old boy living with his grandmother and uncles in Amman.

Challenges Meeting Children's Needs

One day a friend called me and told me that his parents were martyred, and after the conflict intensified his grandmother decided to come to Jordan with him. After one month I visited him and asked him about the main challenges and difficulties he faces with his grandmother, he said "I am feeling bored. My grandmother does not allow me to visit friends and play around the house". He also mentioned that he asked her to buy a mobile phone to have fun and play but unfortunately she refused because of the bad economic situation and because he is too young to have a mobile phone."

A 15 year old boy living with his maternal aunt in Amman



Unable to communicate with parents

This drawing shows a caregiver unable to provide the resources to make the calls because of the bad economic situation. Therefore I keep waiting for my parents to call me and when they call me I feel full of hope and optimism and when they are late I feel sad. In the mobile it says 'my parents calling' and there's a hand wanting to answer very quickly.

A 16 year old boy living with his aunt in Amman.

A child's mother passed away and his father got detained. After 15 days, his paternal grandparents passed away. His maternal grandparents took care of him. He lived a good life with them, but every moment he remembered his parents he felt very sad and cried till his tears dried because he missed his mother's kindness and father's love.

His grandparents treated him in a good way, but he was so sad because they couldn't meet all of his needs, and he did not complete his education because they didn't have enough money. On the other hand they were elderly and unable to work to earn money, and he was 13 years-old so he couldn't work too.

After 4 years his grandfather passed away and after 3 months his grandmother passed away too. When he turned 17 years-old he started working and earning money and then he married and became a father living a happy life.

A 14 year old boy living with his family in Zaatari Camp.

'There is a girl who lives with her maternal aunt and she treats her as she is one of her children. Her aunt gives her love and care, also she helps her in her study and meets all her needs. The girl helps her aunt in doing the household chores. The aunt teaches her traditions and how to respect others. Also she gives her freedom.

A 15 year old girl living with her aunt in Zaatari Camp.

'One a day I was sitting with my friend in the garden, and we were talking about the situation in Palestine and Syria. He told me about his orphan friend living with his paternal uncle. His uncle was kind-hearted and treats him in a good way. His uncle meets all his needs and doesn't discriminate between him and his own children. He lets him go to the school and teaches him all things related to religion. I wish all caregivers were like his uncle.'

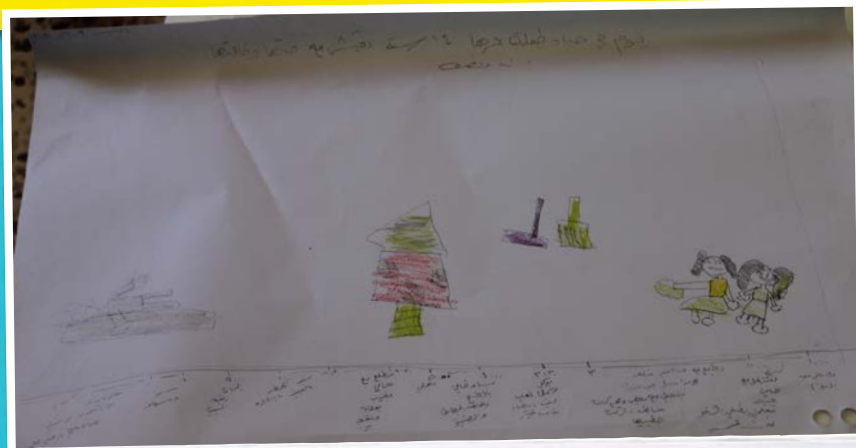
A 15 year old boy living with his aunt in Amman

'We were going to the market to buy some stuff that we need. While we were walking there was a stone on my way and I fell down and lost my shoes. I asked my kind-hearted uncle, who is taking care of me after my dad passed away? who is going to buy me new shoes? He directly took me to the shoe market and bought a new pair of shoes. I felt so happy. He's very friendly and when I do something wrong he sits with me and talks to me calmly without beating me.'

A 11 year old girl living with her paternal uncle in Zaatari Camp.



Day in the life of children living in kinship care



This picture shows a day in the life of a 14 year old girl living with her grandmother and aunt in Amman.

I help my aunt doing the household chores and in the kitchen learning how to cook. Sometimes I go with my uncle to the supermarket and buy an ice-cream and then we sit in the yard. After this we all watch TV, and I am in contact with friends through social media. Usually I go to sleep very late and spend most of the night sending messages and calling friends."

"The colorful people are the biological family living with a child, but because of the war and family problems the child has to live with his uncle and his uncle's wife. They are taking care of him and he goes to the market with his uncle.

A 13 year old boy living with his aunts in Amman.



PART 3

Safe Family Environment

Children's dreams

كانا صغاراً وكبرنا
والمرور علينا
العمر والشكوك
ومعنا ألم
من حزن
يا ربنا وعدنا ما كنا
قد استعنا بالمرحمة التي أجمعنا
بالوحشة من قبلنا
شعاع الحزن حزيناً
سجننا وعالمنا المدمر
يا ربنا عالمنا المدمر ما سمعنا
سكناً يا ربنا المظلم
فما لنا يا ربنا المظلم
وذلك ما يفت يارحمنا بالأسف
مدينتي
لولة مدينتي مدينتي حزننا

"We were young and we grew old... and so our burden grew with us... the age is 20 years old but the looks are of 25... at times we faced love, at times pain... at times we were hurt... at times we faced regret.

I wish we hadn't grown and we hadn't seen the pain that brought us together in sadness... they told us we were the future's generation... but our dreams have been lost.

We yelled at the top of our voices: oh people! But we weren't heard.

We shut the door of dreams... we locked the door of dreams... and your door, life, remained with sadness."

Poem written by a 14 year old girl living with her grandmother and aunt in Amman.

I love it when my aunt calls me with lovely words and makes me feel that I didn't lose my parents. I feel that I am living with my biological family.'

A 17 year old girl living with her aunt in Zaatari Camp.



This drawing describes 'Love and play' when the caregiver takes his kin child to the play area. A 13 year old boy living with his aunts in Amman.



'I feel safe with my
relatives, because
I know them'

A 16 year old boy living
with his aunt in Amman.



14 year old girl
living with her
grandmother in
Amman. In the
drawing she de-
scribes the 'love
and care' walking
with her friend
near her home.

Love and Care



'Love and Care'
A 16 year old girl
living with her
family in Zaatari
Camp.

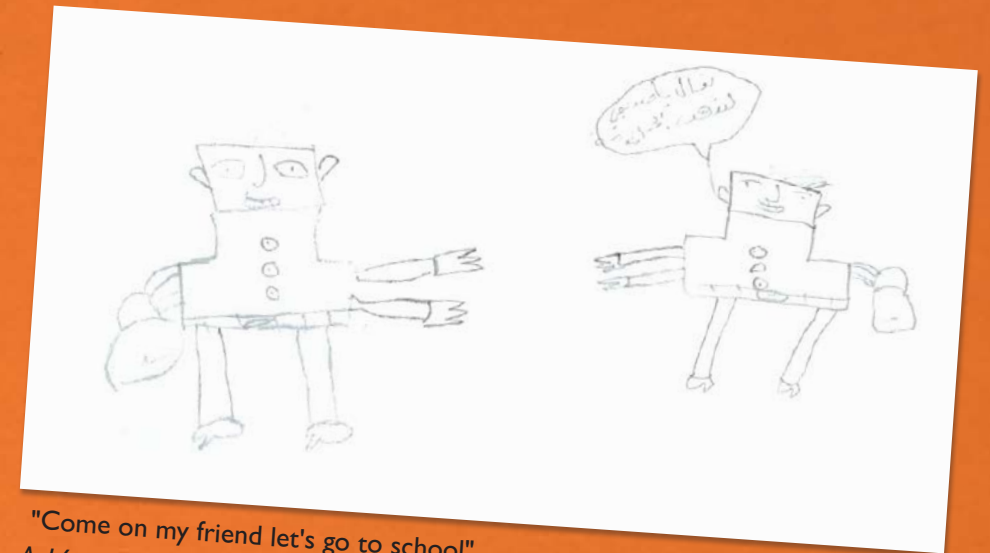


'I am a female caregiver taking care of my brother's children 2 boys and 2 girls since 2 years. I am doing my best to meet their needs, and make them happy. I am treating them in equal way, trying to make them depends on themselves. I have to secure their future and provide the support and guide to them'

A female caregiver from Amman



A 12 year old girl living with her family in Zaatari Camp.



"Come on my friend let's go to school"
A 16 year old boy living with his family in Zaatari Camp.

My aunt is taking care of my education. Once we arrived to Amman she did her best to ensure my right to education.

A 16 year old boy living with his aunt in Amman.

'I was living with my grandparents in Syria. One day my aunt decided to seek refuge in Jordan because of the conflict, she asked me if I wanted to go with her and I agreed. I have been here for a year and half.'

15 year old Syrian girl living in Zaatari Camp.



Save the Children

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