Changing The Way We Care (CTWWC) is implemented by Catholic Relief Services and Maestral International, along with other global, national and local partners working together to change the way we care for children around the world. Our principal global partners are the Better Care Network and Faith to Action. CTWWC is funded in part by a Global Development Alliance of USAID, the MacArthur Foundation and the GHR Foundation.

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**Introduction**

This handbook was made for children to read and write in. We hope you like it!

The story of Tito and his family will help you learn about why families are important and the best place for children to grow up. Children like Tito, who have special and different abilities, also need families just like you!

Sometimes, families like Tito’s need help to take care of their children. That’s okay. Families have the right to this help and they should ask for help whenever they need it. It’s okay to need help!

Children also need help sometimes. That’s okay! We all need help sometimes. Children have the right to this help. Grown-ups, like parents or the other adults children live with, neighbors, teachers and others, should ask children their opinions about the help they need. Children need to be able to give their opinions about where they feel safe living and with whom.

This book is fun! You can read it together with your friends or brothers and sisters, your parents or other grownups in your house. You’ll learn about why families are important and why they are the best place for children to grow up. You can write your feelings about the story on the pages. Sometimes it helps to write feelings and opinions down. Then you can share your feelings and opinions with your parent or another grownup in your house or neighborhood and other adults so they can hear you!
Tito is a 5-year-old Kenyan boy living with disabilities. He cannot take care of himself and depends heavily on his parents and siblings. His parents are casual labourers, struggling to make ends meet while caring for Tito and their other children. His mother came across information about a nearby children's institution that can care for Tito around the clock.
They decide to take Tito to the institution and place him in residential care. A social worker at the institution explains the benefits of keeping Tito at home compared to leaving him at the institution. However, they are adamant about their decision and admit him to the institution.
A few months later, when they visit their son, Tito’s parents find he is unhappy and not coping well at the institution. The social worker talks to them, and they agree to let the social worker make a home visit.
During the conversations, they receive the support and training they need to take care of their son at home.
Tito is reunited with his family and is back home!
The social worker makes monthly visits to the family home and finds Tito is doing well and has learned to take care of himself. He will join the local school in the next academic year.
Tito’s parents are now equipped with better parenting skills from the social worker. And with Tito going to school, they secure long-term jobs and cater for their family well. Tito even helps with the chores!
Tito’s parents are delighted and offer to support the social worker to encourage other families to keep and care for their children at home where they are safe and receive their parents’ love and care.
Can you find the words below? Circle them as you find them!

**Nyamu**

**WORD SEARCH**

A F W Q S V I K E N Y A W C S E
G K S U C C E S S S G J H U A G Q
H O M E K E A C P K Z A C R V D
R X L M C Z R H A P P I N E S S
N S P O U J S O I X U O K L H P
C V E Q V F L O A B I J V E V L
O G K C D E B L D T R Q C A I D
M R P L U Y R C A N J O D V R F
M O X D A R S P C L E B S E S A
U W H C D L I M F A I T H R O M
N T A L X C U T N S G F B A P I
I H C N I B X D Y O U T H N E L
T P W T F U R J K F P S P L A Y
Y E R X F Q Y D N U G J U X C G
W A C H I L D R E N B M O W E P
P G E D U C A T I O N T G Y S Z

**FAMILY**
**CHILDREN**
**PARTICIPATION**
**SCHOOL**
**EDUCATION**
**HOME**

**LOVE**
**GROWTH**
**PLAY**
**FAITH**
**JOY**

**HAPPINESS**
**COMMUNITY**
**CARELEAVER**
**KENYA**
**YOUTH**

**FUN**
**SECURITY**
**SUCCESS**
**PEACE**
Do you know the missing word?

Kiki

ACROSS

1. I feel ___ when my feelings are hurt.
4. ______ people grow better in families.
6. In your home you should always feel ___.
9. Information is ___.
12. Children and ___ people have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives.
14. I love to play and have fun with my ___.
15. We are changing the way we ___.
16. I feel ___ when I am having a good time with my friends.

DOWN

1. Alternative care placements should keep ___ together wherever possible.
2. Children with disabilities should be ___ and cared for just like any other child.
3. Everyone is ___ and everyone’s family is different.
5. If you are worried about anything you should always talk to someone you ___.
7. When an adult ___ to me, it makes me feel good.
8. It is normal to experience different ___.
13. The laws of ___ provide for the children’s rights.
14. All children need to be in a safe and nurturing ___.
Need to know more? Contact Changing the Way We Care at info@ctwwc.org or visit changingthewaywecare.org.

To provide feedback on this resource, scan the QR code below or visit https://forms.office.com/r/LyyBMXg4Ed.