



Specific challenges encountered by homeless fathers

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POD MAATSCHAPPELIJKE INTEGRATIE
BETER SAMEN LEVEN
SPP INTÉGRATION SOCIALE
MIEUX VIVRE ENSEMBLE



STEUNPUNT
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Sure I can leave
... a light on

Marble sounds

- https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=XnQE8Z3vJ_4



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Which message do you read in this



Sure I can leave a light on
Let it shine on, leave it till dawn
Sure I can leave a light on,
Leave a light on for you.

It takes two to find a way out
there is no doubt I will be round
If you have lost a right track
then I'll lead you right back.



Don't search to find a
smile you'll still be nice
Don't run just to get there on time.
Be amazed simply blown away
Live on without getting off your clock.
Sure I can leave a light on,
leave a light on for you.



Sure I can play a quiet song,
I could just strum, be the soft drum
Sure I can play a quiet song,
play a quiet song for you.

It takes you to make my heart say
To let air in and keep breathing
It takes two to keep the vibe trip
I am waiting for you.



It struck me again, we both look the same
But what you make appears in our shapes
I should impress but nevertheless
I cannot change night into day
So sure I can leave a light on,
leave a light on for you.



Which message do you
read in this poem?



1. Fathers and homes

- Role of fathers in the development of their children
- Clichés about fathers and mothers



Role of fathers in the development of their children

- HEYLEN, Marleen (2005), "In de naam van de vader !". Over de relatie tussen vaders en zonen, Acco, Leuven.





Clichés about fathers and mothers

- Romantic ideals
- Persistent images
- Standards
- Social constructs
- Common sense



2. Fathers and homelessness

- Vulnerability of fathers
- Role of the children
- Role of housing



Vulnerability of fathers

- Collapsing of a system leads to
 - powerlessness
 - life depression
 - psychiatric diagnoses
 - abandonment



Vulnerability of fathers

- Broken relationships lead to marginality:
 - homelessness
 - criminality
 - addiction
 - social acting out



Role of the children

- Parental alienation syndrome:
 - 85% male 'victimes'
 - profound alienation
 - lifetime estrangement
 - separation of resources



Role of the children

- The Giving Child
- role of loyalty
- energy of children
- parental responsibility
- shared biography



Role of housing

- Social standards about fatherhood
 - responsibility
 - stability
 - rolemodel
 - material consolidation



Key questions to the group:

- Name one thing from Marleen's presentation that inspired/shocked you?
- What can we learn from Marleen's presentation for our own context and systems and other contexts?
- In your area of Europe, are any programmes in place which address the specific needs of homeless fathers?
- Broken family relations – are these key drivers of homelessness in your country?

