Tumi Tiger Philosopy
A furry friend fostering kids to overcome

Orientation: the content of the Tumi Life orientation/trauma tool

It is important to note that this text primarily transfers Christian life skills to a child (possibly traumatised) and is not meant as a methodology for conversion: i.e. steps leading a child to Christ. The 38 'chats' are intended as independent units that the child can tune into randomly, and each time internalise a different skill from a Christian perspective through Scriptural guidelines. The units do keep facts and information from previous 'chats' in mind, but do not aim to explore a single, basic theme, as would be the case with a written text, such as a story book.

A number inside Tumi's tummy

At the end of each chat Tumi invites the child to phone or Whatsapp™ a number (if possible) in case the child is in need of personal assistance/help.
It is vital that users of this soft toy do provide their organisation's number (a working number that will be answered) or a cell number of a trusted therapist/ safe house mother etc and that they will act on such a call in a timely manner. Tumi provides some skills and some encouragement, but he also provides hope for in-depth help and personal assistance by flesh-and-bone people who really care.

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Strategy and structure

- Tumi Tiger as narrative character is used as a counselling tool, but does not act as counsellor itself. The child learns and is guided through Tumi's adventures and mistakes on crucial matters.

- Tumi as character has its own frame of reference as a tiger cub. Thus, it views, addresses and engages the child as a playmate and a tiger as well (or a human 'cub'). This technique is employed to ensure authenticity in the interaction.

- Some aspects or topics that the text conveys can be problematic or strange to certain cultures. Our recommendation is that the exceptions should not be made a universal 'maxim', but that those aspects be explained or altered according to the context.

- Possible examples: hugging as 'good touching vs bad touching'; 'boundaries' protecting property / something precious; focus on parents and family as environment.

- Keep in mind that the 'chats' on life skills do also focus on self-empowerment, which can be problematic in certain cultures (e.g. a girl empowered to say 'No'). Thus, contextualisation of the text is recommended if necessary.

- Even though the 'chats' are only numbered, hidden titles are provided in brackets to structure the topics functionally in case of a table of contents or for marketing purposes.

For further assistance or information, contact +27 82 647 9059.

- The repetition of various actions may seem unnecessary and even irritating to readers, particularly when working continuously through the themes. However, it should be remembered that children do not have such an analytical approach and is introduced to and handles a unit at time.
- The stories (chats) follow a progress and up the ante, especially when the level covers more complex life skills such as power, post-traumatic stress syndrome, forgiveness, grieving and well-being.

The presentation and performance

- Interaction possibilities are built into the chats (some may be cut if necessary) without influencing the story line (e.g. the hug a day, which keeps the tears away).
- We use the pauses to correlate with the movement and interaction as suggested. Insert additional pauses if needed.
- We play on tiger imitation with words containing rrr (e.g. cubs errr …kids).
- The text will guide the recordists and actor by bold or italicised formatting about which words to emphasise in presenting new information and for inculcation.
- We use standardised tiger mood noises (e.g. purring or Aahh after a tiger hug).
- The chats are structured and planned in such a way that basic skills and knowledge are transferred and inculcated (e.g. left/right knee or ear, colours or meaning of names).
- The children get focused and are taught basic discipline through conditioning: their right knee as 'story bench' and right ear as 'secrets ear', etc.
- The units are also structured and programmed to stand alone, hence the repeated intro where Tumi introduces itself.
- There are some options inserted for interaction (e.g. scratching the tiger's ears or placing the tiger on shoulders). The recordists should make the final decision about which options could enhance or may interrupt the recording.
- The title to each story is functional in structuring the chats according to themes; however, it could be used as captions for the different sections of the CD/tape.
- In the course of the chats, certain tiger sayings are coined (e.g. Tigers who growl don't grow). These can be used for marketing (e.g. mottos on paraphernalia and stickers, or themes for blurbs).

Partnering Organisations who developed this tool

Global Recordings Network Southern Africa (GRNSA)

Recording and serving as a repository of the content.

Vision: Education and Development in all the languages of Southern Africa

Mission Statement: Research and development of teaching materials according to the needs of the peoples of Southern Africa.

Contact: za@globalrecordings.net

We carry stock. Contact us to order.

Megavoice

Supply the hardware units (counselling tool or tiger and mp3 playback device)

Mission: We primarily provide Solar Powered Audio Bibles to reach the unreached.

Contact: orders@megavoice.co.za

We carry stock. Contact us to order.

Home of Creativity

Script developer and owner

Our pledge: We turn dreams into text that changes lives.

Contact: homeofcreativity.co.za

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