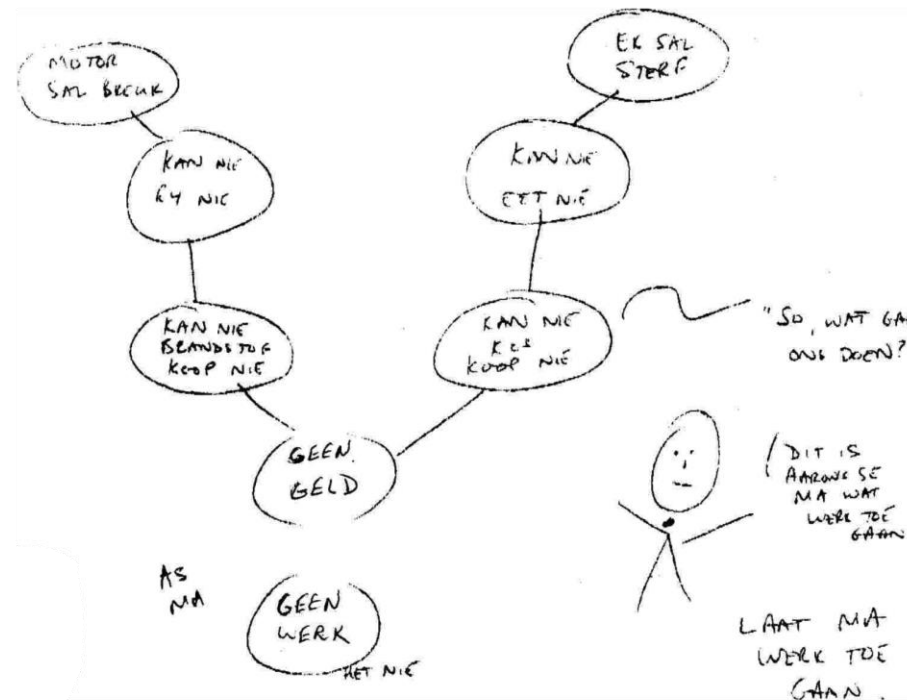
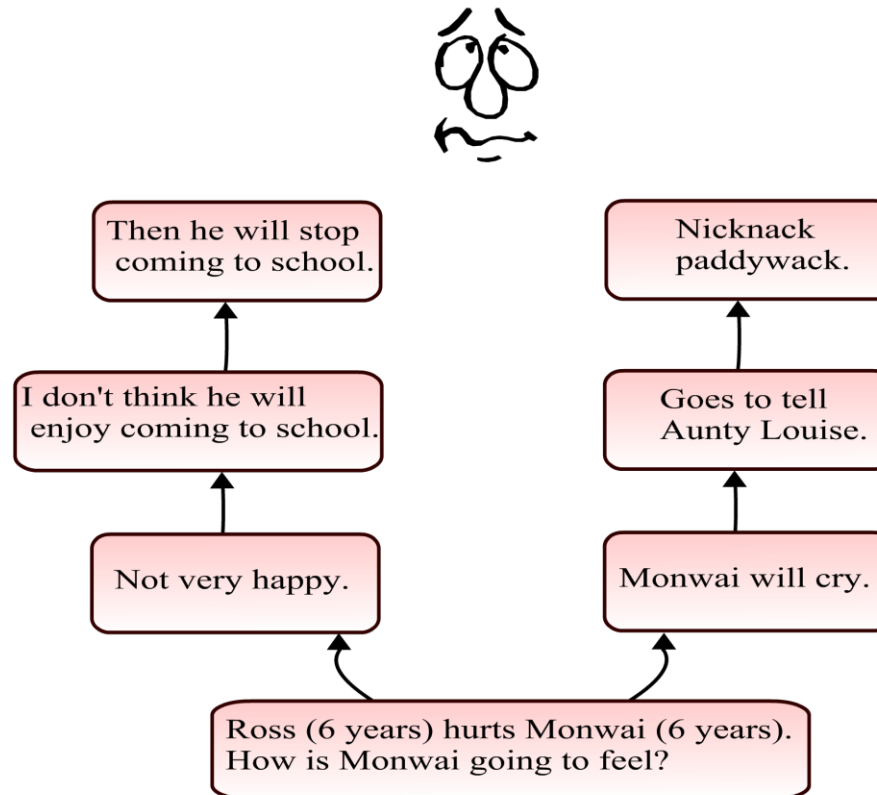


ENABLING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN TO THINK BEFORE ACTING

When Aaron (aged 4) was dropped at school, he screamed when his mom went off to work. It makes him miserable and makes her feel guilty. I took him through the negative branch, encoding the words with pictures and letting him verbalise each step. (Afrikaans translation provided.) Afterwards she asked him what they should do and he replied, "Let Mommy go to work" and drew a picture of his Mommy going off to work. After Louise and Aaron drew this Negative Branch, she no longer had this problem again, EVER!



The next example shows the Negative Branch and its twin the Positive Branch. Ross and Monwai had the umpteenth fight. Ross is tactile defensive (in therapy). I sat the two of them down and Ross started to work on the Negative Branch.



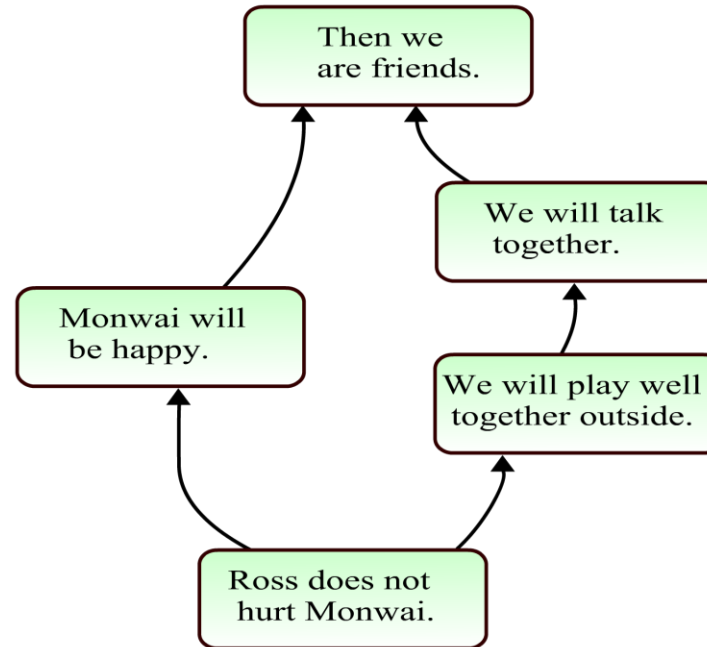
Negative Branch

After this...

Ross: "Aunty Louise, turn the page over and I'll begin again."

Louise: "Why?"

Ross: "Because I want a happy one."



At the end of the day (there had been no further altercations between the two and usually there were 3 or 4 major situations) Ross came and said, "Bye, friend!" and gave Monwai a bear hug!