Prompts for reflection: Under the sofa

Anne Stonehouse: Hello, I'm Anne Stonehouse. This vignette shows a spontaneous everyday event and how Mel guides it. She turns something potentially unpleasant into a positive experience rather than stopping it. As you watch and listen, think about how Mel shows that she trusts and respects the children. How might knowing the children well affect the experience? What tells you that she has clear intentions or purposes?

Mel: All I can see is a bottom! Oh, and a pillow! Oh, I like it, looks very cosy to me. I don't know if I'll fit, but it looks very cosy, Cam. Look where Cam is, Eva. He got a pillow.

Cameron, that's a person over here, so be careful with your legs. She's just coming to have a look at you, like I did.

Maybe find a spot where there isn't any legs and you can join him.

Mel: Bless you!

Eva: Oh no!

Mel: He's coming out!

Cameron: I'm stuck!

Mel: Is he stuck under there?

Mel: I think he wants to be under there. I think he thinks it's a great game. There's his toes.

Cameron: I'm stuck!

Mel: Are you stuck, Cameron? No, he's not stuck. He's having a sleep. Have a look. He looks very relaxed down there. Oh, Cameron, you've got someone having a sleep with you. Why don't you find your own space?

Dot: Can I sleep?

Mel: Yes, you can sleep. Okay, I think Eva's going to use that pillow, so Dot, hop up and grab another pillow. You can hop up and grab another pillow, because I think Eva's found that one. You can grab another pillow. Oh my gosh, it looks so cosy! Can Dot fit? Oh, was that your head, Dot? Nigh-nigh's! Have a good sleep! Woah, it looks so cosy! I want to join you, but I won't fit!

I think there are three pillows and three people. [sings] There were three in the bed, and the little one said 'Roll over, roll over' so they all rolled over and one fell out. [stops singing] Van, I'm not too sure if you're going to fit. Do you want to hop up there on the bed? [sings] There was Van on the bed …

I don't know … there's three children under there, and it's very, very tight. You hop up on here on the big bed. Wow! That's a super-duper big bed. Oh, there's three people squashed under here, and you've got the whole bed!

Mel: You have no idea of each other's space sometimes, and you get very annoyed with each other. Why don't you have a look? You can see here. Dot's right there. And you've got another space up there. Ah! Now there's lots of room. That's like the bottom bunk and the top bunk! Night-night!

Dot: I sleep!

Mel: Night night. Oh look, there's room for you. Good one, Van! You found a little outlet. Night night.