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New Sesame Street character highlights homelessness – Dec 17, 2018

Level 4

The children's TV show Sesame Street has introduced a new character - a homeless child. The show is tackling the issue of homelessness, via the new character - a 7-year-old girl called Lily. Her suffering is the same as that of over 2.5 million children in the USA and millions more around the world. A spokeswoman hoped Lily would reduce the shame linked to homelessness. She said she hoped Lily could help homeless children feel less alone.

The iconic, educational show started in 1969. It has a long history of highlighting social issues, like dealing with parents who are in prison, living with autism, and bullying. The spokeswoman said: "We know children experiencing homelessness are often caught up in a devastating cycle of trauma....Those children may suffer due to poverty, domestic violence, or other trauma that caused them to lose their home."

Level 5

The famous children's TV show Sesame Street has introduced a new character to highlight homeless children. The educational TV series, which started in 1969, is helping to tackle the issue of homelessness. It is using a new character called Lily - a 7-year-old girl who is homeless. Lily's suffering is the same as that of over 2.5 million homeless children in the USA and millions more around the world. A Sesame Street spokeswoman hoped that Lily would reduce the shame associated with homelessness. She said Lily could help children feel less alone.

The iconic show has a long history of raising awareness of social issues, like dealing with parents who are in prison, living with autism, and bullying at school. The spokeswoman stressed the importance of reaching out to homeless children. She said: "We know children experiencing homelessness are often caught up in a devastating cycle of trauma....Those children may suffer due to poverty, domestic violence, or other trauma that caused them to lose their home." She added: "We want homeless children to know that they are not alone."

Level 6

The world-famous children's television show Sesame Street has introduced a new character to highlight the plight of homeless children. The educational TV series, which has been aired since 1969, is helping to tackle the issue of homelessness via a new character called Lily. She is a 7-year-old girl who was left homeless after her family lost their apartment. Lily's plight mirrors that of over 2.5 million children in the USA who are also homeless. Millions more youngsters around the world are in the same situation. A Sesame Street spokeswoman, Sherrie Westin, hoped the character Lily would reduce the stigma associated with homelessness and allow children to identify with her, "and hopefully feel less alone".

The iconic, educational show has a long history of raising awareness of social issues among children. Other tough topics they have addressed include dealing with parents who are in prison, living with autism, and facing bullies at school. Ms Westin stressed the importance of reaching out to children who have no permanent home. She said: "We know children experiencing homelessness are often caught up in a devastating cycle of trauma. As well as the daily hardship of being homeless, those children may suffer due to poverty, domestic violence, or other trauma that caused them to lose their home." She added: "We want homeless children to know that they are not alone."