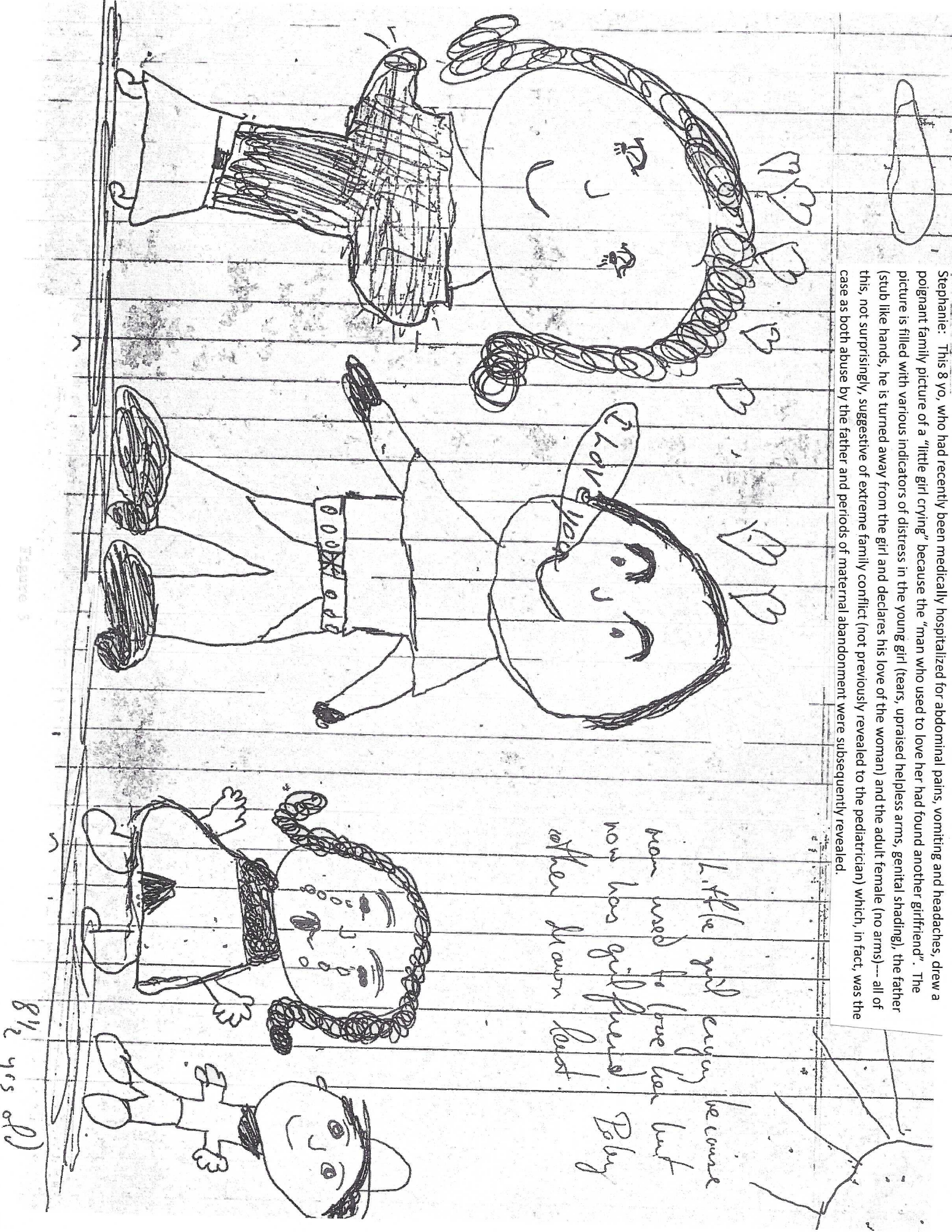


Maurice: 10 yo lad with recent diagnosis of a seizure disorder, academic difficulties and behavioral problems. The mother and the pediatric resident were concerned that recently prescribed seizure meds may have triggered behavior problems. Maurice's drawings were developmentally immature, with minimal detailing and form, disproportionality of body parts and demonstrates his difficulty in drawing a hat. When shown to the mother, she became aware of his underlying developmental, cognitive and learning disability status and was able to shift her focus from seeing him as "bad" and was able to shift her focus to seeking needed services from his school and the regional disability agency.



Stephanie: This 8 yo, who had recently been medically hospitalized for abdominal pains, vomiting and headaches, drew a poignant family picture of a "little girl crying" because the "man who used to love her had found another girlfriend". The picture is filled with various indicators of distress in the young girl (tears, upraised helpless arms, genital shading), the father (stubby like hands, he is turned away from the girl and declares his love of the woman) and the adult female (no arms)---all of this, not surprisingly, suggestive of extreme family conflict (not previously revealed to the pediatrician) which, in fact, was the case as both abuse by the father and periods of maternal abandonment were subsequently revealed.



Little girl crying because man used to love her but now has girlfriend. Poling rather drawn last.

8 1/2 yrs old

Figure 3



Anthony: Age 12, Anthony had been medically hospitalized three times in the past 18 months with recurrent leg pains which had engendered extensive intrusive but negative work ups. His multiple drawings showed pictures of himself in positions of imbalance and/or with obvious distortion of his body (no legs and with a malformed upper torso with an unformed left arm).

