



Responding To The Impact of Violence!

“I just care for their child. Anything I do to help the child understand violence is lost when they return home.”

Perhaps you have heard this statement before or maybe you have said it yourself. It is true that many children can not escape the violence in their homes, communities, or schools and in the media. But there are important steps we can all take, both individually & together, to stem the rising tide of violence and to help create a more peaceful & just world.

Recognize the Cycle of Violence

Many people are caught in the cycle of violence. Frustrated by the anger and destructive behavior that demands

our attention, we become less sensitive to what children are experiencing.

Reaching our own limits, we may resort to...

yelling, snatching, threatening, or shaking children, thereby contributing to the trauma they have already experienced. Struggling to cope, many of us are failing children and failing ourselves.

Break the Cycle on a Personal

Level

Parents, teachers, caregivers and others in the lives of children must examine their own feelings and reactions about violence.

Break the Cycle Through Best

Practices

The most powerful buffer against violence is a resilient family. High quality early care and education programs provide needed support for families & community and a clear message about the value of non-violence for young children.

Create a Strong Sense of Community

Promote a sense of community in your program by helping children:
Experience a sense of safety and security. Participate in rule making for the class community. Feel a sense of belonging in the group. Recognize and accept differences of all kinds.

Empower Children

We can nurture independence & initiative taking by offering children daily opportunities to make choices, help one another, evaluate & select their own work for display & portfolios.

Provide Cooperative Learning Experiences

The many skills provided through cooperative learning can be taught in developmentally appropriate ways from a young age.

Teach Conflict Resolution

Children can begin to develop skills in conflict resolution when managing conflict is part of the curriculum.

Respond to Children Who Have Experienced Violence

Children who have been exposed to violence need your help. How they react depends on their age, developmental stage, range of coping skills, frequency of exposure, whether family members were involved, and the level of support in their lives.

Build a Partnership With Families Against Violence

- ✓ Establish trust, safety, and a sense of security in the lives of children by becoming a resource for families.
- ✓ Share research information
- ✓ Provide suggestions & strategies
- ✓ Listen to Parents & help them articulate their concerns

A project of The Florida Partnership for Parent Involvement

Center of Excellence ♦ Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute ♦ Florida's Children's Forum
Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters ♦ Hillsborough County Head Start ♦ Hillsborough County Even Start

✓Connect families with community resources

XKNOW WHEN TO REFER!

For more information contact:



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPI (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

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