



# Through The Eyes of A Child

**W**hether a child is a victim or a witness to a violent act, they need caring and sensitive adults who will take the time to see the situation through the eyes of the child.



**B**ecause young children often lack the language skills to communicate their thoughts or feelings, they will often express themselves through their behavior.

**W**hen parents and caregivers take the time to tune in to a child's level of thinking, they are able to implement strategies that can help the child cope and make sense of the experience.

**O**n the reverse side of this tip sheet, you will find a reproducible flyer that can help parents and professionals understand the many feelings and perceptions children effected by violence may have.

**T**he "how you can help" suggestions reflect best practices for working with and helping **ALL** children!.

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For more information contact:

## How violence affects me...

I may not feel safe and have trouble trusting.

I may have trouble taking risks & doing things on my own.

I may have trouble feeling like I belong. I may feel responsible for the problem or guilty and worthless.

I may feel like violence and anger are a normal part of relationships and the only way to solve problems.

I may not see things the way they really are because no one listens to me and maybe because I have trouble making sense of things because of my age.

I get scared that you might not be able to help me.

Ericksen & Henderson, 1992; Groves, Mazur, 1995;  
Levin 1994

## How you can help me...

Show me what a secure trusting relationship looks and feels like.

I need consistency and a schedule that is predictable. Please be patient with me while I adjust.

Let me contribute to my class, family and community in a meaningful way so I feel like I belong and am valued.

Show me and my friends how to solve problems and show me how to be just and fair by treating me this way.

I need to tell my story. I need someone to listen. When you ask me questions that are uncomfortable, I feel different. Somehow drawing and dress-ups help me a lot.

Please know when my problem is too hard for you and find me help.

NAEYC, 1987; CEASE, 1993; Slaby, Roedell, Arezzo,  
Hendrix, 1995;  
NAEYC Proposition Statement on Violence in the Lives of



Young Children, 1993.

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**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](http://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 HIPPIY (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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