

Resources to Support Children Exposed to Domestic Violence

This list of resources is intended as an advocates' toolbox for developing enhanced services for children exposed to domestic violence. It includes online collections of practical materials, reviews of the available research and its potential applications in the field, and a variety of advocacy tools to best address children's needs in a variety of settings, given a variety of circumstances. More information and resources in addition to those included below can be found through the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence's comprehensive online library, the National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women (VAWnet) at www.VAWnet.org.

Applied Research

Emerging Responses to Children Exposed to Domestic Violence by Jeffrey Edleson in consultation with Barbara Nissley (Updated July 2011)

This document reviews the new research, policies, and programs focused on children who have witnessed adult domestic violence. It argues that the diversity of children's experiences requires equally diverse responses from those who serve them.

http://www.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/AR_ChildrensExposure.pdf

Children's Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence and Other Family Violence by Sherry Hamby, David Finkelhor, Heather Turner, and Richard Ormrod of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (October 2011)

This bulletin explores in depth the NatSCEV survey results regarding exposure to family violence among children in the United States, including exposure to intimate partner violence, assaults by parents on siblings of children surveyed, and other assaults involving teen and adult household members.

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/232272.pdf>

The Effects of Childhood Stress on Health Across the Lifespan by Jennifer S. Middlebrooks, MSW, MPH and Natalie C. Audage, MPH for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (2008)

This document summarizes the available research on childhood stress and its long-term consequences. Of particular interest is the stress caused by child abuse, neglect, and repeated exposure to intimate partner violence.

http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/pdf/Childhood_Stress.pdf

First Impressions: Exposure to Violence and A Child's Developing Brain from Children Without a Voice (2011)

This 14-minute video illustrates the dangers of chronic exposure to violence on a child's developing brain. Combining inspirational true-life stories and nationally recognized experts, viewers are given information on a child's developmental risk if regularly exposed to domestic violence and other violent situations.

https://xnet.kp.org/domesticviolence/news/first_impressions.html

Supporting Battered Mothers Protects Children: Reducing the Effects of Domestic Violence on Children by The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (January 2011)

This report contains the latest research on the prevalence of child exposure to domestic violence and best practices in addressing this violence. It also includes recommendations on how the state of Missouri can better meet the needs of children and mothers experiencing violence.

http://safe-and-together.endingviolence.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/MCADV-Supporting-Battered-Mothers-Protects-Children__Reducing-the-Effects-of-Domestic-Violence-on-Children-January-2011.pdf

Child Custody and Visitation Decisions in Domestic Violence Cases: Legal Trends, Risk Factors, and Safety Concerns by Daniel G. Saunders in consultation with Karen Oehme (Revised October 2007)

Describes major legal and social trends surrounding custody and visitation decisions and the social science evidence supporting the need to consider domestic violence. Recommendations for custody and visitation decisions are explored.

http://www.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/AR_CustodyRevised.pdf

Children as Citizens: Engaging Adolescents in Research on Exposure to Violence by Felton Earls for the National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice (January 25, 2001)

This web conference discusses the value of involving adolescents in research on exposure to violence, and engaging them in community activism.

<http://www.nij.gov/multimedia/presenter/presenter-earls/>

Advocacy Tools

Promising Futures: Best Practices for Serving Children, Youth, and Parents Experiencing Domestic Violence by Futures Without Violence (2012)

This website provides information on evidence-based program development, implementation of specific intervention models, and building community connections.

<http://promising.futureswithoutviolence.org/>

Honor Our Voices: Children's Perspectives of Domestic Violence by the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA) and University of Minnesota Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (October 2011)

This online learning module features the diaries of three children in different age groups, sharing their experiences of exposure to domestic violence and offering related best practice themes for shelter advocates and other social service providers.

<http://www.honourourvoices.org/>

Change a Life Program by the Children of Domestic Violence Foundation (2012)

This online program helps to build skills and offers tools to any individual that wishes to help children experiencing domestic violence on their path to healing and thriving.

<http://cdv.org/the-change-a-life-program/>

Cabrini College Children as Witness Domestic Violence Project by Cabrini College (2010)

This project provides information and interactive resources to help educators recognize the signs that their students may be living with domestic violence and learn how to help them.

<http://www.cabrini.edu/domesticviolence/>

Supporting Parenting in Shelter Webinar by Margaret Hobart for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (May 19, 2011)

This 1.5 hour webinar explores practical approaches to supporting parenting in shelter. The presenters offer suggestions for policy change, making space for parenting, and for providing survivor centered advocacy that helps rebuild parent/child bonds and resiliency.

<http://video.wscadv.org/SupportingParentingMay2011>

K.I.S.S. (A Kid Is So Special): Strengthening Mother-Child Bonds by Beth Bitler for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2008)

This 12-week child-focused curriculum was developed to assist adult survivors in recognizing the impact that domestic violence has on children, as well as understanding and responding appropriately to children's reactions to abuser behavior.

http://www.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/ESCYP-Advocates.pdf

Little Eyes, Little Ears: How Violence Against a Mother Shapes Children as they Grow by Alison Cunningham and Linda Baker for the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (2007)

This is a concise source of information for anyone wanting to understand children's experiences of violence and its impact their on development from infancy to adolescence.

http://www.lfcc.on.ca/little_eyes_little_ears.pdf

Through Our Eyes: Children, Violence, and Trauma from the Office for Victims of Crime (March 2013)

This online video series addresses the needs of children exposed to violence and victimization.

<http://www.ovc.gov/pubs/ThroughOurEyes/index.html>

Early Childhood, Domestic Violence, and Poverty: Helping Young Children and Their Families by Susan Schechter, Paper Series Editor and Project Director (January 2004)

This series of papers contains practical guidelines and policy recommendations for pediatric health settings, early childhood programs, family support providers, police, and DV agencies. Individual papers in the series are available for download.

http://www.ncccev.org/pdfs/series_all.pdf

Advocacy Matters: Helping Mothers and Their Children Involved with the Child Protection System by Futures Without Violence (2004)

This document's purpose is to underscore the importance of the advocates work, provide tips for how to improve practice in this area, and inspire them to better understand women's situations and help them be safe and self-sufficient.

http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Children_and_Families/Advocacy%20Matters.pdf

Supervised Visitation: Information for Mothers Who Have Been Abused by Jill Davies for Futures Without Violence (2007)

Developed for mothers who have experienced abuse and whose children are in supervised visitation programs - provides basic information about how the programs work and how mothers can prepare themselves and their children for the experience.

http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Children_and_Families/supervised_visitation_han_dbook.pdf

Fathering After Violence: Working with Abusive Fathers in Supervised Visitation by Juan Carlos Areán with contributions by Fernando Mederos for Futures Without Violence (2007)

This guide was developed to assist Safe Havens grantees who want to enhance the safety and well-being of women and children by working more deliberately with abusive fathers who use the centers to visit their children.

http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Children_and_Families/FAV-final.pdf

Parenting in the Context of Domestic Violence by Jeffrey L. Edleson, Lyungai F. Mbilinyi, & Sudha Shetty for the Judicial Council of California/Administrative Office of the Courts (March 2003)

This report describes children's exposure to domestic violence, the needs of both parents and children in the context of domestic violence events, and the resources available to help them.

http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/ParentingDV_fullReport.pdf

Working with Batterers As Parents: What would a curriculum look like? by David Mandel from Issues in Family Violence of the Non-Violence Alliance (Spring/Summer 2002)

This article considers some of the programming and curriculum issues related to working with batterers as parents.

<http://www.endingviolence.com/newsletters/sum2002.php>

Addressing Domestic Violence, Child Safety and Well-being: Collaborative Strategies for California Families by Anne Rosewater & Kathy Moore, California Leadership Group on Domestic Violence and Child Well-being (December 2010)

This report is designed to identify the progress that has been achieved in California over the past decade and make policy recommendations for the state that will not only improve responses to the families affected by domestic violence but begin to put in place strategies for prevention.

http://www.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/CAgreenbookreport2010.pdf

Special Collections

Enhanced Services to Children and Youth Exposed to Domestic Violence – Promising Practices and Lessons Learned by the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (January 2012)

This special collection showcases the nine demonstration projects funded by the FVPSA Program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through Stamp Out Family Violence Act of 2001, focusing on their goals, collaborative partnerships, experiences, challenges, and successes.

<http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/ChildrenExposed.php>

Working with Children Towards a Healthy and Non-Violent Future by The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (June 2008)

This collection provides a unique perspective on working with children (younger than 13 years of age), focusing on theories and strategies for raising respectful, non-violent people. Resources discuss child development and how to utilize this knowledge when implementing primary prevention strategies that foster healthy attitudes and behaviors.

<http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/Children.php>