



Counteracting the Impact of Violence In Children's Lives

Children growing up today encounter enormous amounts of violence in their lives, both imagined and real. From the nightly news broadcast, to the violence in the entertainment media and in selected children's toys, we live in a culture that increasingly exposes its children to violence. Tragically, too many children are exposed to real life violence on their school playgrounds, in their neighborhoods or villages, and in their very homes. The extent children are impacted by violence varies, yet few children are untouched by it. Positive influences from caring adults in the community can help children overcome the negative influence of living with violence.

Suggestions for Creating A Positive Environment for Children:



Be A Role Model

Children learn by example. Show children by your actions that there is a better way to solve problems than violence.

Provide Community Support

Advocate for positive youth activities and mentoring programs. Take time to get to know the youth in your community, sharing your time and talents as a teacher, coach, mentor and role model.

Promote Nonviolence

Offer a wide range of opportunities to let children play, explore and learn without violence being the theme. Encourage cooperation in your children's play, and look for opportunities to teach empathy.

Teach Conflict Resolution

Discourage children from fighting, teasing and bullying. Help them to use their words - not fists - to resolve conflicts. Practice conflict resolution at school, on the playground and at home.

Involve Children In A Caring Community

Offer children opportunities to participate in a caring community where everyone is valued, traditions are honored and people rely on and help each other to work out their problems.

Resources:

Safeguarding Your Children and Community Violence Prevention Kit are available from your local PTA and on-line: <http://www.pta.org> The Lion & The Lamb Project's Parent Action Kit promotes promoting non-violent play. Call 301/654-3091 or go to: <http://www.lionlamb.org>



Community Resource Kit

Alaska Children's Trust 1-800-643-KIDS

Alaska Child Abuse Prevention Network. akchildabuseprevention.org