RESOURCES

IF YOU THINK A CHILD IS IN DANGER, CALL 911!

Children’s Institute, Inc
711 S. New Hampshire Ave., LA, CA 90005
213-385-5100
www.childrensinstitute.org

Los Angeles Child Guidance Center
3787 S. Vermont Ave., LA, CA 90007
323-766-2345
www.lacgc.org

Violence Intervention Program
1721 Griffin Ave., LA, CA 90031
323-221-4134
www.violenceinterventionprogram.org

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE
1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233)
1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
www.thehotline.org

PEACE OVER VIOLENCE
(213) 626-3393
(310) 392-8381
(626) 793-3385
www.peaceoverviolence.org

CHILDREN’S PUBLICATIONS

A Terrible Thing Happened: A Story for Children Who Have Witnessed Violence or Trauma.
(Margaret Holmes, Author (2000))
Illustrated story for helping children who have witnessed any kind of violent or traumatic episode understand their feelings. Includes suggestions for caregivers and a list of resources.

Something Is Wrong at My House: A Book About Parents’ Fighting
(Diane Davis, Author (1984))
A boy in a violent household finds a way to care for himself and obtain adult help. He described his feelings of anger, fear, and loneliness. Available in Spanish.
The Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office is committed to the safety and well-being of children and their families. We are dedicated to reducing the causes and effects of children exposed to violence. We are a trauma-informed prosecutorial agency that recognizes and responds appropriately to the varying impacts of traumatic stress on children, caregivers, families and those who have contact with the criminal justice system.

The exposure of children to violence is a national epidemic expected to touch an estimated 46 million children in the United States during their childhood. No matter where the violence occurs - - at home, school, or in the neighborhood - - exposure to violence is a uniquely traumatic experience for children with effects that can last a lifetime.

Common types of violence to which children are exposed:

Prenatal Exposure to Violence:
- Violence experienced by the Mother is also experienced by the unborn child.
- Screaming, yelling or extremely loud noises are experienced by the unborn child as distress.

Exposure to Violence in Infancy:
- Assault by a sibling
- Loud/Violent Arguments between parents.
- Violence against the primary caregiver.
- Neglect/Physical/Sexual abuse.

Exposure to Violence in Young Children (Ages 2-5), Middle-Age Children (Ages 6-10):
- Bullying/Assaults by peers or others with or without a weapon.
- Sexual Abuse/Assault
- Sexual Harassment
- Witnessing Community and/or Family Violence.

Exposure to Violence in Pre-Teens (Ages 11 to 13) and Adolescence (Ages 14 to 17):
- All psychological & emotional abuse
- Bullying/Assaults by Peers with or without a weapon.
- Dating Violence
- Gang Violence
- Sexual Assault/Harassment
- Unwanted Online Sexual Solicitation or Exploitation.
- Witnessing Community and/or Family Violence.

“What should I do when I know a child has been exposed to violence?”

The first thing to consider is the safety of the child. Is the child in a safe place? If not, make sure to get the child to a safe place, if possible. Once the child is safe, it is good to talk to the child about what happened. Talking to children about violence is never easy. Adults tend to avoid talking to children for the following reasons:
- It is over now. Why talk about it?
- It might make things worse.
- I do not know what to say.
- I am scared to bring it up
- I have tried, but my child does not want to talk about it.

It is normal to have these thoughts, but talking is the first step toward healing. You may feel uncomfortable, but here are some ways to get started:
- Take a deep breath.
- Talk to someone you trust and who can help you gather your thoughts.
- Plan what you want to say to your child.

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr. -