

## DOMESTICALLY VIOLENT HOMES: THREATS OF HARM TO CHILDREN

BY: ANDREW M. CAMPBELL

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### OBJECTIVES

- Describe how domestic violence and child maltreatment intersect
- Identify specific threats of harm to children in domestically violent homes
- Discuss approaches to protecting children and mitigating injuries that may occur to them in domestically violent homes

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### DV PREVALENCE

- DV affects **30% to 40%** of families involved in the child welfare system
- DV calls make up as much as **50%** of all law enforcement calls
- Up to **35%** of all hospital emergency department visits attributed to DV
  - Adult victims may be more likely to seek care for child than themselves

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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DECLINING?



**TABLE 1**  
Violent victimization, by type of violent crime, 2005, 2013, and 2014

Type of violent crime	Number			Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2005	2013	2014 <sup>a</sup>	2005	2013	2014 <sup>a</sup>
Violent crime <sup>b</sup>	6,907,800 <sup>c</sup>	6,136,430	5,218,150	28.4 <sup>d</sup>	23.2	20.1
Aggravated assault	2,027,260	360,170	284,100	8.8	1.1	1.1
Robbery	780,110	601,610	664,210	3.1	2.4	2.5
Sexual	5,079,640 <sup>e</sup>	5,166,610	4,411,210	20.4 <sup>f</sup>	20.6	16.5
Aggravated assault	1,287,490	994,230	1,082,090	5.2 <sup>g</sup>	3.8	4.1
Simple assault	4,089,400 <sup>h</sup>	4,166,380 <sup>i</sup>	3,329,120	19.2 <sup>j</sup>	15.8 <sup>k</sup>	12.4 <sup>l</sup>
Domestic violence <sup>m</sup>	1,240,290	1,134,960	1,100,890	5.1 <sup>n</sup>	4.7	4.3
Intimate partner violence <sup>o</sup>	876,210	798,830	834,510	3.3 <sup>p</sup>	2.8	2.4 <sup>q</sup>
Stranger violence	2,483,600 <sup>r</sup>	2,086,710	2,166,700	10.0 <sup>s</sup>	7.9	8.7
Violent crime involving injury	1,779,210 <sup>t</sup>	1,601,960	1,279,590	7.2 <sup>u</sup>	6.1	5.2
Serious violent crime <sup>v</sup>	2,228,400	1,940,010	2,048,610	9.2	7.3	7.7
Serious domestic violence <sup>w</sup>	423,270	404,710	400,010	1.7	1.6	1.5
Serious intimate partner violence <sup>x</sup>	311,480	300,030	305,890	1.3	1.4	1.0
Serious stranger violence	1,296,460	727,940	738,090	4.3	2.8	3.5
Serious violent crime involving weapons	1,010,020	1,174,270	1,206,490	6.8 <sup>y</sup>	4.4	4.9
Serious violent crime involving injury	874,800	779,210	651,470	3.6	2.8	2.6

## PROBLEMS WITH "SELF-REPORTING"

- Self-reported through phone or in-person interviews
  - Excludes:
    - Very poor
    - Do not speak English
    - "Chaotic" lives
    - Military families living on base
    - Individuals who are hospitalized, homeless, institutionalized, or incarcerated

## LOW RESPONSE RATES (DV REPORTS)

- **National Violence Against Women Survey**
  - African American Women (10%)
  - Female adults under the age of 30 years (19%)
- **National Crime Victimization Survey**
  - Non-Hispanic White Female (77%)
  - Residing in Urban Area (30%)
  - One or More Children in Household (30%)

## CAMPBELL IPV STUDY (2017)

- 9,355 IPV incidents documented and analyzed
  - Dec. 25, 2012 to December 2, 2015
- Incidents Involved:
  - 9,420 Suspects
  - 9,406 Victims
  - 7,591 Witnesses




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Article

# Characteristics of Intimate Partner Violence Incidents and the Environments in Which They Occur: Victim Reports to Responding Law Enforcement Officers

Andrew M. Campbell,<sup>1</sup> Ralph A. Hicks,<sup>1</sup>  
Shannon L. Thompson,<sup>1</sup> and Sarah E. Wiehe<sup>1</sup>

## Abstract

The objectives of this study were to identify intimate partner violence (IPV) incidence rates, to quantify specific risks and characteristics of these incidents and the environments in which they occur, to identify how often children are present for or injured during these incidents, and to identify differences in victim reports of IPV to law enforcement officers at the scene of the incident compared with previously published reports of IPV from retrospective, anonymous surveys and domestic violence shelter interviews. Data gathered by responding law enforcement officers at the scene of the IPV incident were used to determine the prevalence of IPV incidents.

Journal of Interpersonal Violence  
1-24  
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## STUDY DEMOGRAPHICS

Study/County Population Demographics				
Gender	*Victim (n = 9420)	*Witness (n = 7591)	*Suspect (n = 9406)	**Marion County Population (n = 903,393)
Male	12%	***48%	88%	48%
Female	88%	***52%	12%	52%
Age				
Under 5 years	0%	37%	0%	8%
5 to 9 years	0%	19%	0%	7%
10 to 14 years	0%	12%	0%	7%
15 to 19 years	6%	7%	3%	7%
20 to 29 years	44%	10%	41%	17%
30 to 39 years	29%	5%	29%	15%
40 to 49 years	14%	4%	16%	13%
50 to 54 years	4%	2%	5%	7%
55+ years	3%	3%	4%	21%
***Ethnicity				
White	45%	40%	38%	60%
African American	51%	56%	59%	26%
Hispanic	2%	3%	2%	9%
Other	1%	1%	1%	5%

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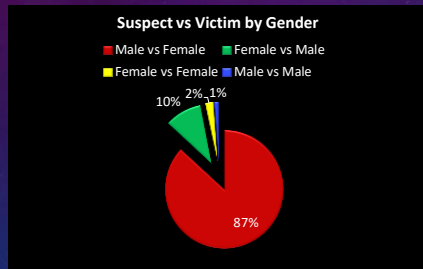
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## CAMPBELL IPV STUDY (2017)

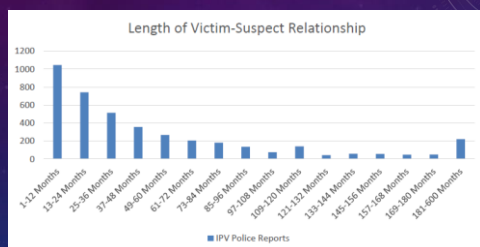


## ENVIRONMENT OF VIOLENCE

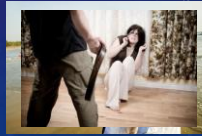
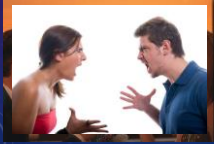
- On average, couples with IPV history have had \_\_\_ prior, unreported incidents.



## CAMPBELL IPV STUDY



### "HONEYMOON" PHASE?




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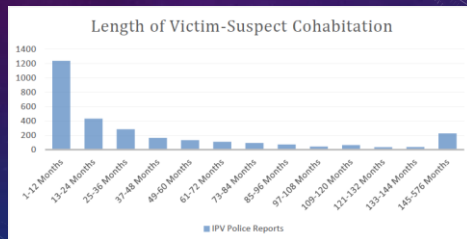
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### CAMPBELL IPV STUDY




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### CAMPBELL IPV STUDY



- Annual IPV victimization rate for Marion County was **441** victims per 100,000 population aged 12 and older

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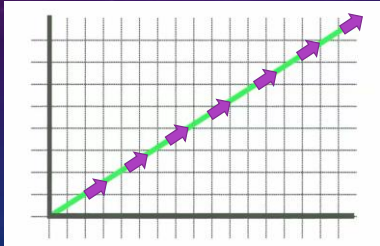
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## HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

- Incidents often escalate in intensity/risk over time




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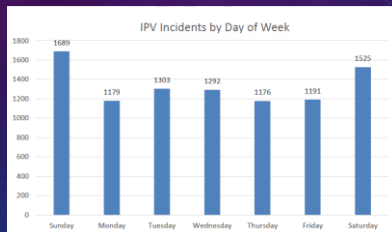
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## IPV STUDY (DAYS OF WEEK)




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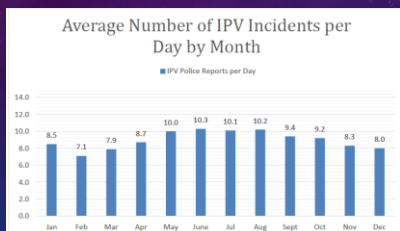
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## IPV STUDY (MONTHS OF YEAR)




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"The suspect reportedly **chased** the victim throughout the home before the victim managed to lock herself in the upstairs bathroom. The suspect **broke through** the bathroom door with a baseball bat and **dragged** the victim down the hall to her bedroom. The victim **struggled** with the suspect, at which point he **struck** the victim over the head with a lamp, **knocking** her unconscious. The victim's three children were present in the home but had been locked in their bedrooms prior to the incident and did not witness the event".

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"The suspect allegedly **struck** the victim with an open hand, **knocking** her to the ground. Their 1- year-old child was present but was not physically injured or involved in the altercation. The child was crying on scene but was able to be comforted. No referral was made to child protective services as the child was not physically injured and is too young to be affected".

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DV IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

- **Children live in \_\_\_\_% of homes where DV occurs.**

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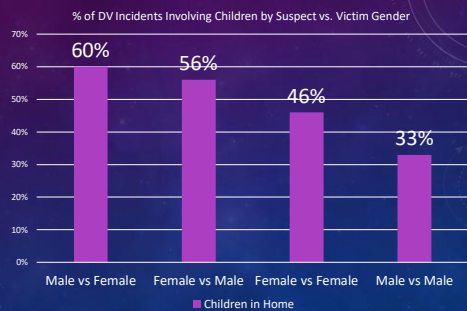
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## IPV STUDY – CHILDREN PRESENT



## IPV VICTIMS: CHILDREN

- 15.5 million children exposed annually in U.S.
  - Younger children disproportionately represented
    - Under the age of 5 Years
- Law Enforcement Study (1997)
  - 81% experienced direct sensory exposure
  - 4% physically injured
- Physical Injury as Indicator = Missing 96%

## CHILD MALTREATMENT/DV OVERLAP

- Children living in a home where DV occurs are at \_\_\_\_ times the risk of child maltreatment compared to the general population.



### IPV - THREAT OF HARM TO CHILDREN

- 678,932 children abused or neglected in U.S. during 2013 calendar year (U.S. Dept. of Health)
  - 1% of entire U.S. child population
- In homes where DV occurs, prevalence of child abuse or neglect may rise to as much as **60%**
- As much as **60** times the risk of child abuse or neglect

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### THREATS OF HARM TO CHILDREN

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional Maltreatment




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### DV – RISK FOR SEXUAL ABUSE (CHILDREN)

- Kellogg & Menard, 2003 (Texas)
  - Children living in homes where IPV occurred were more likely to be sexually abused (67%).
- Dong et al., 2004 (Atlanta/San Diego)
  - Among families experiencing IPV, 36.4% were also subject to CSA.
- Hamby et al., 2010 (Sewanne/Durham)
  - More than 70% of youths who had been sexually abused by a known adult had witnessed partner violence.

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## EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT

- Single, significantly impactful incident
- Underlying theme of a series of events




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## How Does Emotional Maltreatment Affect Children?




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## EM – BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

- **Earliest Stages of Infancy**
  - Lack of healthy stimulus = damage to brain that becomes increasing irreversible with age
- **Toxic Stress**
  - **Cortisol (Excess)**
    - Harm to developing brain
    - Alteration in body's stress response
      - Hyper or Under Responsive

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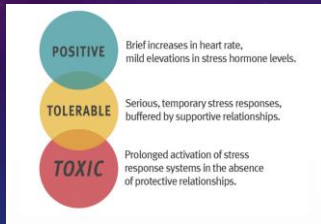
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## CHILD STRESS

### • Different Types of Stress



<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/toxic-stress/>

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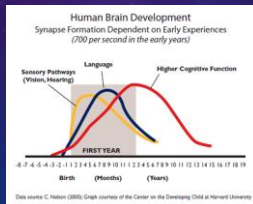
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## TOXIC STRESS EFFECTS

- State of development interrupted determines how child is affected
- Severity, longevity of exposure
- **Younger the child, more severe the deficits**




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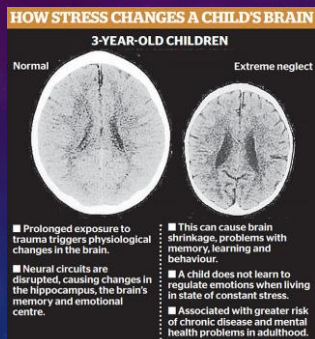
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## TOXIC STRESS EFFECTS CONT.




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## EM – DEVELOPMENTAL EFFECTS

- Negatively affects a child's mental and physical development

- ↓ IQ (Dose Response, under 5)
- ↓ Memory
- ↓ Learning Capacity
- ↓ Brain Volume

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## HOW DV/EM AFFECTS CHILDREN

- Acceptable/Normal Behaviors?
- Inappropriate response to stress
  - Victimization makes child more likely to experience same stressors
- Withdrawal/Depression
  - (Early as 4 months)




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## POLICE OFFICER OBSERVATIONS (VICTIM)

Observation (n = 2434)	Victim	%
Afraid	1111	46%
Angry	588	24%
Apologetic	142	6%
Bruises	499	21%
Calm	515	21%
Complaint of Pain	1288	53%
Crying	989	41%
Nervous	855	35%
Panicked	383	16%

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## POLICE OFFICER OBSERVATIONS (CHILD)

Observation (n = 1336)	TOTAL	%
Afraid	390	29%
Angry	66	5%
Calm	667	50%
Complaint of Pain	40	3%
Crying	312	23%
Nervous	221	17%
Panicked	47	4%
Withdrawn	51	4%

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## CAREGIVER THREATS

VIOLENT OFFENDING CAREGIVER

AND

NON-VIOLENT (VICTIMIZED) CAREGIVER



Both Present Unique, Individualized Risks

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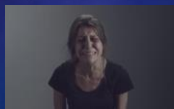
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"The violent offending caregiver has been imprisoned and therefore no longer has access to the children in the home. The mother has no intention of letting him return to the home. The threat to the children has been removed."




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## EGELAND (1987)

- Longitudinal study of 267 high risk families
  - Poverty
  - Limited Education
  - Youth of Mother (40% teenagers)
  - "chaotic living conditions"
- Control group of mother's providing adequate care

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## EGELAND (1987)

- Four maltreatment groups
  - Physical Abusive
  - Hostile/Verbally Abusive
  - Psychologically Unavailable
  - Neglecting

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## EGELAND (1987)

- Children who experienced \_\_\_\_\_ suffered most dramatic consequences.
- Children victimized by maltreatment during the **first two years of life** exhibit more negative outcomes than those victimized after reaching the age of 2 yrs.

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## EFFECTS OF EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT




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## VICTIMIZED CAREGIVER




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## DIFFICULTIES IN IDENTIFYING VICTIMS




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## CAREGIVER REPORTING

- Victimized Caregiver – Withholding Information
  - Further endangering themselves and their children
    - Women/children in these environments often at **great risk when fleeing**
  - Depend on income of offender
  - Long-term relationship
  - Violent offender is biological parent of child
  - Nowhere else to go

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## DIFFICULTIES IN EXPOSURE REPORTING

- Children may not respond truthfully
  - Coached, scripted response
- Fear of further injury to loved ones/pets.




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## COMPANION ANIMAL ABUSE

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 0147-8713/173077-10 of Pages 12  
 ARTICLE IN PRESS  
 Child Abuse & Neglect xxx (2017) xxx-xxx  
 Contents lists available at ScienceDirect  
 Child Abuse & Neglect

Research article  
 Children's experiences of companion animal maltreatment in households characterized by intimate partner violence<sup>a,b</sup>  
 Shelby Elaine McDonald<sup>a,\*</sup>, Elizabeth A. Collins<sup>b</sup>, Nicole Nicotera<sup>c</sup>, Tina O. Hageman<sup>d</sup>, Frank R. Ascione<sup>e</sup>, James Herbert Williams<sup>f</sup>, Sandra A. Graham-Bermann<sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University, Academic Learning Commons, 1000 Royal Avenue, Third Floor, P.O. Box 8000, Richmond, VA 23298-8000, USA  
<sup>b</sup> Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1720 Elmwood Street, Suite 900, Denver, CO 80202, USA  
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<sup>d</sup> Department of Psychology, The University of Michigan, 2605 East Hall, 530 Church Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1062, USA

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## MCDONALD ET AL. (2015)

- “My dad last week said that he was very upset with my mother and that he was going to burn the bird’s wings with a lighter”
- “That day that my dad said he would burn my dog on the grill, I took him into my room and locked him in the closet with food and water until the next day”
- “My dog always sleeps with me in my room so that my dad doesn’t hurt him”

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## IPV AND PET ABUSE (CAMPBELL 2018)




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“Either/Both”



“ALL”




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## IPV, PET ABUSE, AND CHILDREN

- Children reside in **58%** of homes where IPV and pet abuse is reported to co-occur.
- These children are likely to be significantly affected by the violence occurring in the home.
  - Pets may in many cases be their sole source of emotional support.
  - **75%** incidents of pet abuse in home occur in front of children.
- Children in these homes are at risk of **perpetrating animal abuse**.
  - Learned-Behavior (Cycle of Violence)
  - Strong predictor of **future perpetration** of violence
    - Both in Home **AND** Community




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## WHAT CAN WE DO

### • Ask the Question

- Parkinson et al., 2001
  - Well-child visits (766 Families)
  - 16.5%, 31%, 40% history of or current DV
  - Less than 1/3 after asked about DV before by a medical professional

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## WHAT CAN WE DO

- Kerker et al., 2000
  - 19 practices, 1886 parents
  - Pediatricians detected DV in 0.3% of cases, parents reported it in 4.2% of cases.
  - Pediatricians detected child physical abuse in 0.5% of cases, parents reported it in 21.6% of cases.

**ASK THE QUESTION**

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## WHAT CAN WE DO

- Ask appropriate questions
  - Focus on behaviors/feelings
- Ask questions away from potential perpetrator
- Beware of Potential Indicators (Red Flags)




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## AFTER DISCLOSURE OF DV



**HAVE A PLAN**

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## EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION

- Multi-Disciplinary Approach
- Mi Escuelita (CA)

**Mi Escuelita Helps Break Cycle of Family Violence**

According to a University of California San Diego five-year study, Mi Escuelita Therapeutic Preschool, a preschool funded in part by First 5 San Diego, is helping children who've been exposed to family violence.

The new data results were shared at a data briefing on Friday, December 5, 2014, presented by Congresswoman Susan Davis (CA-53) and local leaders, showing that investing in quality academic support systems positively changes the trajectory for at-risk children. The briefing highlighted data on academic advancements for children who attended Mi Escuelita Therapeutic Preschool. The early learning program has helped produce better reading and math scores when the children move on to elementary school, making it less likely to ever be placed in special education classes.

Mi Escuelita Therapeutic Preschool, operated by South Bay Community Services, is the only one of its kind designed especially for children affected by domestic violence and abuse. The school opened in 2006 with 40 children, and now serves nearly 72 children ages 3 to 5 for full-day therapeutic quality early education with three full-time therapists and specialized staff. Since its opening, the preschool has served more than 200 children.



## What Can We Do

Survivors of **Emotional Maltreatment** report that having just one person who gave “unconditional, positive regard; someone who thought well of them and made them feel important” was the single greatest contributing factor to their survival.



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