



Violence-Free Early Childhood Forum

PLENARY SESSION I : ISSUES ON VIOLENCE-FREE EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTING

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"Violence isn't something that just happens that you can't do anything about. It can be prevented."

Dr. Rodney Hammond
Director of CDC's Division of Violence Prevention

Child abuse violates children's health and safety and betrays their trust.

Most child abuse is perpetrated by family members.

Although much less frequent than abuse by family members, child abuse also occurs in out-of-home settings such as schools, child care settings or in foster care.

In the setting of a center for children with disabilities in early childhood care and education



Common disabilities:

- Autism
- Slow learners
- Learning disabilities (LD)
- Down syndrome
- ADD / ADHD

Common disabilities:

- Delay in neurological development
- Speech delay / non-verbal
- Hyperactivity in some children



Vulnerabilities:

- Delay in neurological development – may not understand what is happening to them during the assault (violence / sexual)
- Could not verbalize it – telling someone or expressing fear
- Thinking its done for reward sake or to please someone

Vulnerabilities:

- Amongst peers – bullying cases, may result in either self-inflicted injuries or aggression towards others as a defense mechanism, worst case scenario, committing suicide in pre-teens and teens
- Many also end up in depression and not capable to lead a normal life

How can we help?

As a parent:

- Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development
- Guidance on family relationship approaches
- Respite care for parents / take a break sometime



How can we help?

As a community who cares:

- Ask your neighbor, if you hear children constantly screaming, ask how you can be of help
- Offer help / respite care to parents

How can we help?

Practitioners / educators:

- Intervene to lessen harm and prevent future risks
- Be the child's advocate, be their voice
- Offer listening ears to parents dealing with children with difficult behavior
- Early-childhood centers should employ adequate number of qualified staff to work with children and to provide adequate supervision of staff and volunteers.



Thank
you!