



 NATIONAL CENTER ON
Parent, Family and Community Engagement



Session 4 Partnering with Parents Who Have Used Violence in Intimate Relationships

Webinar Series

1. Introduction to Addressing Domestic Violence in Head Start programs
2. Supporting Healing for Families Who Have Experienced Domestic Violence
3. Partnering with Parents to Prevent and Respond to Domestic Violence
- 4. Partnering with Parents Who Have Used Violence in Intimate Relationships**
5. Building Collaborative Relationships with Community Partners

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Presenters



Juan Carlos Areán
Program Director,
Futures Without Violence

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Learning Objectives

- Focus on safety, accountability, and healing when working with parents who use violence in intimate relationships
- Learn about appropriate referrals
- Explore parenthood as a potential motivator of change

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

What You Will Need for This Session

- Pen and paper for journaling and idea generation activity.

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Head Start Programs Play a Vital Role!

Please answer the following question:

- What are your fears, or fears your coworkers might have, when you think about working with parents who use violence in intimate relationships?



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Common Answers

What are your fears, or fears your coworkers might have, when you think about working with parents who use violence in intimate relationships?



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Parents Who Use Violence in Intimate Relationships: Who Are We Talking About?

- It's not a clinical diagnosis
- It's a behavioral profile which includes:
 - Intimidation
 - Psychological and emotional abuse
 - Exaggerated, intrusive, disproportionate entitlement
 - Physical and sexual violence

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Presentation

- Defensive-aggressive
- Challenging
- Charming-manipulative
- Superficially compliant
- Avoidant

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Parenting Style

- Continued threats and violence after separation
- Behavior negatively affects children
- More controlling and abusive parenting
- Often involve children in violent events
- Good under observation

Bancroft & Silverman, 2002

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Impact on Families

- Undermining the authority of parent experiencing domestic violence
- Interfering with the parenting of the parent experiencing domestic violence
- Use of the children as weapons
- Sowing of divisions

Bancroft & Silverman, 2002

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Considerations

- It's not all on you or your program. It takes a community response.
- It's normal to feel nervous engaging a parent uses violence in intimate relationships
- The great majority of parents who use domestic violence (95%+) are **not** highly dangerous
- It's critical to engage these parents since the majority of them can change, given the right accountability-based treatment and support.

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Considerations

- **Battering intervention programs** are the preferred intervention.
- Strategies to avoid:
 - Couples counseling
 - Anger management
 - Traditional psychotherapy



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

On Your Own

Please answer the following question:

What are the hopes you have for working effectively with parents who use violence in intimate relationships?



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Healthy Relationships

What are the hopes you have for working effectively with parents who use violence in intimate relationships?



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Why Work with Parents Who Use Violence in Intimate Relationships?

- They often have legal and illegal contact with their children.
- Because most people want to be good parents, in some cases this contact can be transformed into a positive and healing experience for the children.
- Many people who have suffered domestic violence want their children to have safer and healthier contact with their fathers.
- Some parents who use violence in intimate relationships are able to develop empathy towards their children, which may be a protective factor against further abuse.

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Healthy Relationships

- Many grew up in abusive households and have lived through the intergenerational cycle of violence.
- Domestic violence is a deliberate choice and a learned behavior and therefore can be unlearned.
- Positive involvement by parents can be very beneficial to children's development.
- Giving parents who use violence in intimate relationships more opportunities for change and healing is an essential component to end violence against women and children.

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

“How do we hold people accountable for wrongdoing while at the same time remain in touch with their humanity enough to believe in their capacity to be transformed?”

-bell hooks



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Role-Play Demonstration #1

Role-Play Demonstration # 1



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Role-Play # 1 Debrief



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Role-Play Demonstration #2

Role-Play Demonstration # 2



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Role-Play # 2 Debrief



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Strategies for Working with Parents Who Use Violence in Intimate Relationships

- Encouraging positive changes and accountability for behavior
- Encouraging strengths
- Exploring cultural role models
- Using universal messages
- Building rapport
- Engaging a person as a parent

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Building Rapport

Examples:

- Recognizing the importance of parents
- Seeing a child's perspective
- Desiring to be good parents
- Recognizing difficult conversations - Shame



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Engaging a Person Who Uses Domestic Violence as a Parent

Examples:

- Meaning making of parenting
- Concern about children
- Pride for children
- Vision of parenthood
- Legacy



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

One More Role-Play Demonstration #3

One More Role-Play



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Safety First

- There are risks to engaging with parents who use violence in intimate relationships. Plan carefully to avoid increasing risk. Use the “Do No Harm” standard.
- Never talk to both parents together about domestic violence.
- Never use disclosures of the parent or children experiencing domestic violence without permission.

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

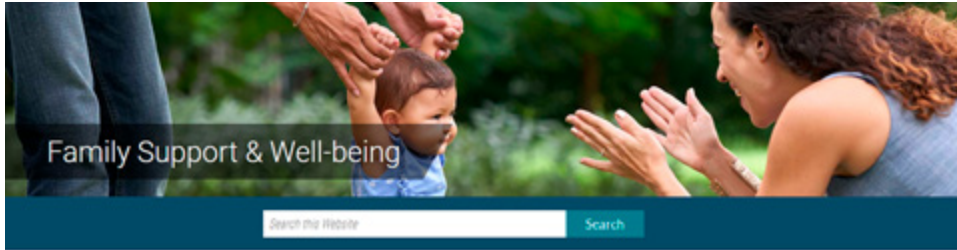
Wrap Up

- Parents who use violence in intimate relationships can be held accountable and be supported in their change simultaneously.
- This type of engagement requires practice and planning.
- Safety should be always the top priority.



National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Resources About Domestic Violence



Preventing and Responding to Domestic Violence

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-support-well-being/article/preventing-responding-domestic-violence>

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

THANK YOU

National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

Session 4: Partnering with Parents Who Have Used Violence
in Intimate Relationships

