

REACTION TO VIOLENCE

No "typical reactions" to family violence. Coping mechanisms vary. Manic behavior and developmental delays most common.

INFANTS	PRE-SCHOOL	SCHOOL AGE
<p>Notices distance and lack of availability of mother. Basic needs for attachment disrupted. Routines around sleeping and feeding abnormal. May be caught in the crossfire. Apathy. Excessive crying. Irritable. Social delays. Failure to thrive. Poor health. Poor sleeping habits. Lack of stranger anxiety.</p>	<p>Signs of terror. Irritable behavior. Regression. Hiding. Stuttering and speech delay or difficulties. *Aggressive behavior - hitting, biting, swearing, spitting. Delayed social skills. Short attention span.</p>	<p>*Violence seen as an appropriate way of handling conflict Suffering in silence reinforced. Live in shame. Embarrassed by family secret. No sense of self-esteem. Few opportunities to develop social skills outside of family. Guilt - they might prevent the violence. Confused - divided sense of loyalty. Live with fear and anxiety. Alert for early signs of violence. *Limited tolerance for frustration. *Poor impulse control. Poor social skills. Powerlessness. Increasing deceptiveness, lying, stealing. Poor definition of personal boundaries. Accepting or projecting blame. *Assumes violence is the norm. Absence of joy and spontaneity. Feeling used and powerless in decisions regarding custody issues. Role reversal. Feel self is bad, unlovable, dumb. Greediness, clinging demand for attention. Distrust. Inability for self expression, distorted expression of feelings. Problems with giving or receiving affection. Discard relationships at slightest sign of rejection. Eager to win approval.</p>

* SINCE VIOLENCE IS A LEARNED BEHAVIOR, CHILDREN NEED TO LEARN ALTERNATIVE, APPROPRIATE WAYS TO DEAL WITH THEIR ANGRY FEELINGS.