

# Children Living in Violent Households

## WAYS OF BEING DRAWN IN

## EFFECTS OF ABUSE

### 0-1 YEAR OLDS

- Seeing it
- Hearing it
- Being awakened by it
- Being injured by it
- Being ripped from mother's arms
- Having toys broken
- Being born prematurely
- Being hit while in mom's arms
- Being thrown

- Physical injury
- Death
- Fright
- Being traumatized by it
- Sleep disturbances
- Eating disturbances
- Being colicky or sick
- Insecurity because of being cared for by a traumatized mom
- Not responsive or cuddly

### 2-4 YEAR OLDS

- Seeing it
- Hearing it
- Trying to stop altercation
- Becoming abused themselves
- Being used as a physical weapon against the victim
- Being interrogated by perpetrator about victims activities
- Being held hostage by perpetrator

- Acting out violently
- Withdrawal
- Trouble with other kids
- Delayed toileting
- Eating problems
- Nervous, jumpy
- Sleep problems
- Insecurity, fear and Depression

### 5-12 YEAR OLDS

- Seeing & hearing it
- Picking 1 parent to defend
- Physically intervening
- Calling the police
- Running to neighbors for help
- Being used as a spy against Mom
- Forced to participate in attack on Mom
- Being physically or sexually abused to control Mom
- Being restricted from contact with others

- Fear & insecurity
- Low self esteem
- Withdrawal/depression
- Running away
- Early drug/alcohol use
- School problems
- Bedwetting
- Sexual activity
- Becoming caretaker of adults
- Being embarrassed by one's family



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# EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON OLDER CHILDREN

## WAYS OF BEING DRAWN IN

## EFFECTS OF ABUSE

### TEENS (BOYS & GIRLS)

- Killing/trying to kill perpetrator
- Trying to stop the abuse
- Hitting parent or siblings
- Becoming physically abused
- Being used as a spy
- Being used as a confidante
- Being coerced by perpetrator to be abusive to mom
- School problems
- Social problems
- Sexual activity
- Shamed & embarrassed
- Truancy
- Superachiever at school
- Tendency to get serious relationships too early to escape home
- Depression
- Suicide
- Alcohol/drug use
- Confusion about gender roles

### EFFECTS SPECIFIC TO BOYS ONLY

- Learning that males are violent
- Learning to disrespect women
- Using violence in his own relationships
- Confusion or insecurity about being a man
- Attacking parents or siblings

### EFFECTS SPECIFIC TO GIRLS ONLY

- Learning that male violence is normal
- Learning that women don't get respect
- Accepting violence in her own relationships
- Embarrassed about being female
- Becoming pregnant



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