Child Neglect
Resources for School Counselors

Children's Literature Resources

- Liza's Story by Deborah Anderson
- Family violence:
  A Place for Starr by Howard Schor
  A Safe Place to Live by Michelle A. Harrison
- Foster care:
  Maybe Days by Jennifer Wilgocki and Marcia Kahn
- Emotional abuse/neglect:
  Michael's Story by Deborah Anderson
- The Words Hurt by Chris Loftis and Catharine Gallagher

Web Resources

- www.safechild.org
- http://preventchildabuse.com
- State law and reporting information for all states:
  http://www.smithlawfirm.com/mandatory_reporting.htm
- American Humane Society:
  http://www.americanhumane.org/

Professional Journal Resources


Recommendations for School Counselors

- Reporting suspicions of abuse is mandated by law. Reports should be made to local child protective services agency.
- Indicators of possible neglect include:
  - Physical symptoms – poor hygiene, consistent hunger, fatigue, unattended medical needs, low weight, frequent school absences
  - Behavioral symptoms – withdrawal, isolation during play, aggression, dissociation, substance abuse, attention seeking behaviors
- Teacher collaboration: Education on how to identify neglect and intervene in classrooms

Elementary School Level

- Individual counseling: Create a safe, therapeutic relationship
- Classroom guidance: Identifying and expressing emotions, activities include writing about emotions, labeling emotions, or discussing children’s literature to identify emotions and develop empathy
- Parent consultation: Parental groups and workshops to provide social and community supports and teach healthy parenting

Middle School Level

- Individual counseling: Create a safe, therapeutic relationship
- Classroom guidance: Problem solving strategies and role plays, strategies include stating the problem, brainstorming solutions, determining consequences, and selecting a solution
- Group counseling: Confident Conqueror group to focus on building self concept and developing life coping skills

High School Level

- Individual counseling: Create a safe, therapeutic relationship
- Group counseling: Emerging Leaders to focus on building self concept and developing life coping skills, incorporate giving students opportunity to have a voice in the school