

Creating a Supportive Environment for Children with Incarcerated Parents and Their Families in Early Childhood Programs

Our presenter



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Today's objectives

Examine

Examine statistical information and research relating to the effects of incarcerated parents on childhood.

Understand

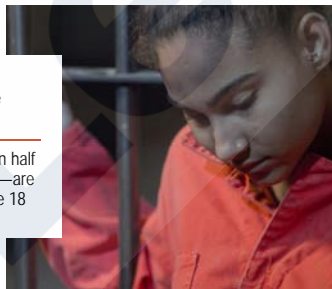
Understand the effects of incarceration on school performance.

Discover

Discover tools and strategies for supporting the social and emotional needs of children with an incarcerated parent.

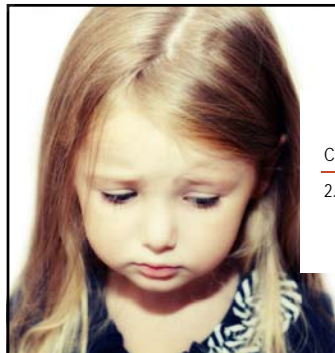
Parents are a Part of the Incarcerated Population

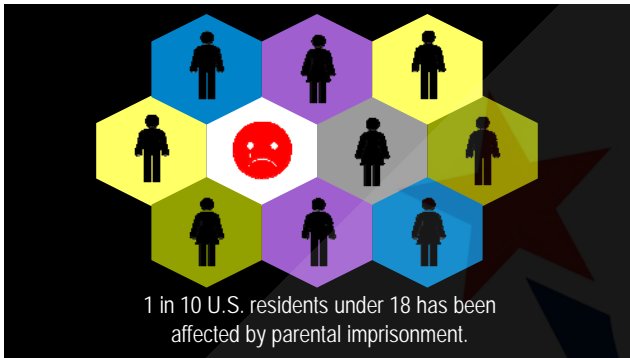
1.2 million inmates—more than half of the incarcerated population—are parents of children under age 18



Children with an Incarcerated Parent

2.7 Million Children in America have an incarcerated parent





Boys whose fathers are incarcerated during their preschool years are more likely to be placed in special education by age nine.

Anna Haskins, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Cornell University

Incarceration Hurts Young Children

Emotional and behavioral readiness setback the equivalent of nearly 2 months of schooling.

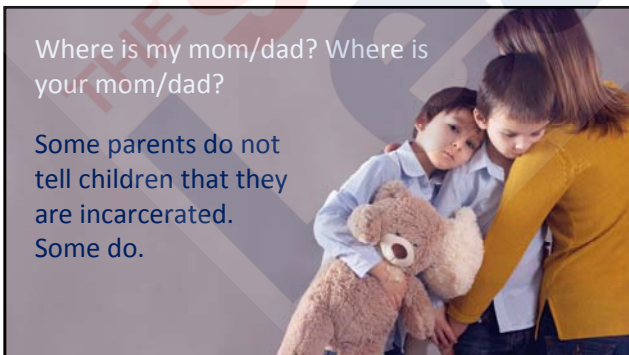
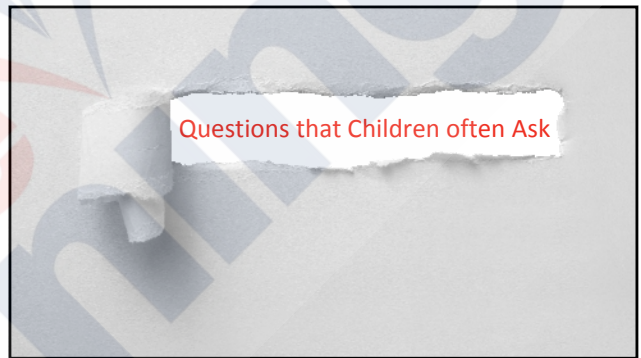
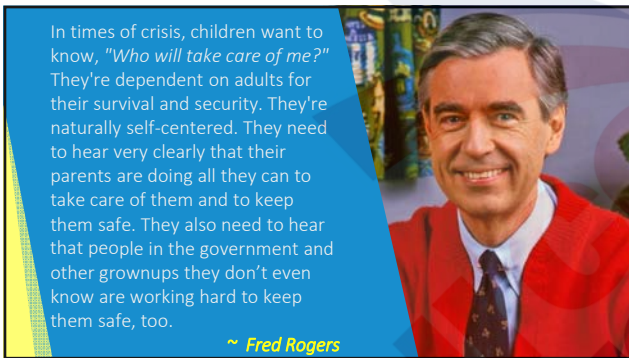
Anna Haskins, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Cornell University

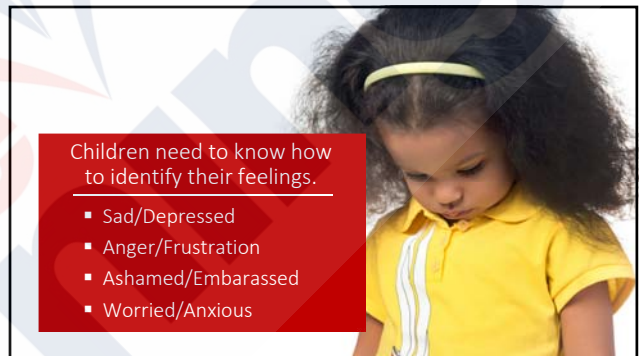
Setbacks Don't See Color

Correlation to Antisocial Behavior

Anna Haskins, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Cornell University

Parental Engagement in School or the Lack Thereof





Books on Coping with Sadness

Calm Children with Physical Activity

- Dancing (a "mad dance")
- Exercising
- Stomping feet
- Playing with clay or dough that can be pounded, twisted, and pulled

Calm Children with Physical Activity

- Playing with water or sand
- Finger painting
- Going outside for a walk or run
- Scribbling as hard as possible then throwing away along with anger

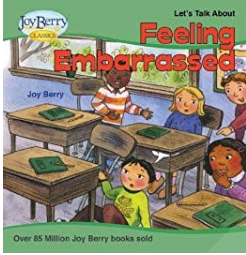
Books for Children on Anger and Frustration

Things to Say to a Child Feeling Ashamed

- "I am so proud of how you handled it."
- "It takes a really brave person to keep playing when things are hard."
- "I'm so proud of you for sharing your feelings with me."

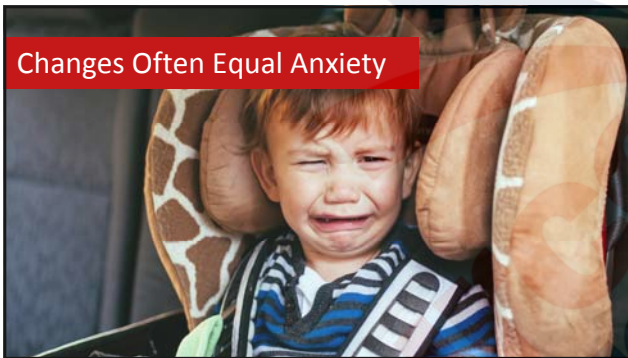
Courageous Conversations

Practice the conversations that children might have with their friends so they know what to say.
(teacher and child only after adult approval)




Let's Talk About
Feeling Embarrassed
Joy Berry
Over 85 Million Joy Berry books sold

Books on
Feeling Ashamed



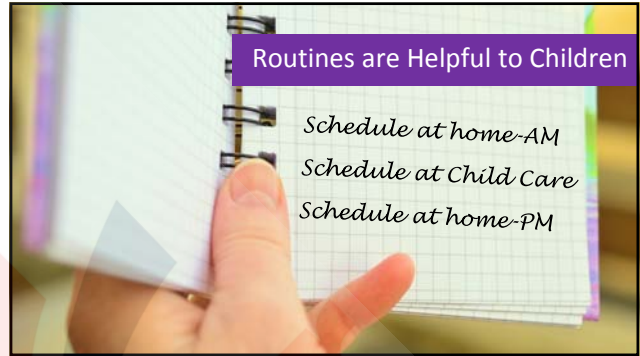

Activities to Cope with Worries/Anxiety

- Breathing
- Worry Time-Make worry time a part of the day.
- Squashing Worries-Draw a picture of a bug for each worry. Allow child to hit it with a clean fly swatter after naming the worries.



Books to Cope with Anxiety/Worries







Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

RESOURCES: Practical Strategies for Teachers/Caregivers

- Scripted Stories for Social Situations
- Tools for Working on "Building Relationships"
- Book List
- Book Nook
- Teaching Social Emotional Skills
- Tools for Developing Behavior Support Plans

<http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/strategies.html#teachingskills>

Resources

- 1 The Pew Charitable Trust**
http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/legacy/uploadedfiles/pes_assets/2010/collateralcosts1.pdf.pdf
- 2 Haskins, Anna. How Fathers' Imprisonment Undercuts Children's Readiness for School – Especially Hurting Black Boys.** <http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/brief/how-fathers-imprisonment-undercuts-childrens-readiness-school-especially-hurting-black-boys>. Accessed 26 Sept. 2017.
- 3 Sesame Street**
Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration
<https://www.sesamestreet.org/toolkits/incarceration>
- 4 The Fred Rogers Company**
Thoughts from Fred Rogers
<http://www.fredrogers.org/parents/special-challenges/tragic-events.php>

The Source for Learning – PreschoolFirst

- 5 Penn State Extension**
I'm so mad! (Helping children deal with anger)
<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/betterkidcare/early-care/tip-pages/all/im-so-mad-helping-children-deal-with-anger>
- 6 Child Mind Institute**
How to Help Kids Deal With Embarrassment
<https://childmind.org/article/help-kids-deal-embarrassment/>
- 7 Huebner, Dawn, Ph.D., What to Do When You Worry Too Much: A Kid's Guide to Overcoming Anxiety,** Magination Press, Washington D.C. 2006.
- 8 Haskins, Anna. Understanding the Impact of Paternal Incarceration on Children's Schooling.** <http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/brief/understanding-impact-paternal-incarceration-childrens-schooling>. Accessed 26 Sept. 2017.
- 9 Haskins, Anna. How does paternal incarceration affect children's cognitive and noncognitive development?** www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/focus/pdfs/foc322d.pdf. Accessed 26 Sept. 2017.

Questions?

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