

it shouldn't
hurt to be a
child



how domestic
violence
affects
children



We Can Help

The YWCA Rock County Alternatives to Violence Program offers professional staff who provide advocacy and assistance for children affected by domestic violence.

**YWCA IS ON
A MISSION**

YWCA Rock County
1735 S. Washington Street
Janesville, WI 53546

ywcarockcounty.org

Business Line
608-752-5445
Facsimile
608-755-4743
24-Hour Helpline
752-2583 or 800-750-7990
24-Hour Textline
608-371-9288

non-discrimination policy
ywca rock county is committed to providing equal opportunity and reasonable accommodations in its services, programs, activities, and employment.

Rev 04-20-2017



United Way
Blackhawk Region

**eliminating racism
empowering women**
ywca
Rock County

how violence affects children

Physical & Mental Effects

- Children may feel guilt & shame; think it's their fault
- May regress to early stages of development
- Demanding and withdrawn
- Crave/need
- Cranky, crabby kids

Sexual Abuse

- Shame about body
- Feeling threatened & fearful of their sexuality
- Learning inappropriate sexual talk/behavior
- Children having access to pornography magazines and movies

Using Children

- Being put in the middle of fights
- Children may take on roles and responsibilities of parents and give up being children
- Children seen and not heard
- Children being used to solve conflicts, asking them to take sides

Threats

- Learn to manipulate because of their own safety issues due to effects of violence in family
- Expressing anger in a way that is violent and abusive, or not expressing anger at all because of their own fear

Sexual Stereotyping

- May copy abuser's dominant and abusive behavior
- Copying victimized passive and submissive behavior
- Unable to express feelings of who they are

.....

what everyone should know

Intimidation

- Putting children in fear by using looks, loud actions, loud gestures, loud voice, smashing things, destroying property
- Fear of physical safety

Isolation

- Inability to develop social skills
- Feeling alone and different
- Can't have friends over because of the need to hide the violence
- Keeping harmful "secrets"
- Not trusting of adults

Emotional Abuse

- Doubting reality
- Fear of doing wrong
- Inconsistent limits and expectations by caregiver
- Fear of expressing feelings
- Inability to learn at school
- Low self-esteem

.....



A child does not need to display all of these characteristics as a whole to be affected by domestic violence. They may display one characteristic only or one characteristic in 2 or 3 areas of behavior. It is important, however, that if a child exhibits any of these characteristics that domestic violence in the family be considered as part of any diagnosis.

resources

Rock County Sexual Assault Recovery Program *24-hour Hotline: 866/666-4576

YWCA CARE House for child victims of abuse: 608/755-4750

Beloit Domestic Violence Crisis Line: 608/365-1119

Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence: www.wcadv.org

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault: www.wcasa.org

Love Is Not Abuse: www.loveisnotabuse.com

The National Center for Victims of Crime-Teen Victim Project: www.victimsofcrime.org

YWCA Rock County Helpline: 608/752-2583 or 1-800-750-7990

Textline: 608-371-9288 24 Hours/7 Days a Week