



EFFECTS OF WITNESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

AGE	PHYSICAL	EMOTIONAL	BEHAVIORAL	DEVELOPMENTAL
Prenatal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor nutrition Beatings increase risk of miscarriages 	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased miscarriages Low birth weight
Birth to 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low weight Digestive problems No appetite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritability Sadness Anxiety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sleep problems Startles easily Cries excessively Excessive screaming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to thrive
2 to 6 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of bowel control Lack of bladder control Stomachaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fear Anxiety Guilt (feels responsible for abuse) Separation anxiety Lacks self-confidence Self centered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acts out Very aggressive (mimics abuse) Verbally abusive Defiant Very withdrawn Clingy/whining Tries not to be noticed Problems making/keeping friends Regressing to younger behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor verbal skills Quiet, doesn't talk Poor cognitive skills Poor motor skills Poor impulse control Fears new things, people
7 to 12 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bedwetting Stomachaches/ulcers Headaches Insomnia Eating disorders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low self-esteem Denial & secrecy Indifference to abuser Fear & anger Guilt (can't protect mom/loves the abuser) Self blame Nightmares Ashamed & embarrassed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggressive, bully Violent (towards peers, animals, siblings) Lies & steals Self-abusive Withdrawn or clingy Deny violence in home Doesn't invite friends home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor grades or failure School phobia Poor impulse control Learning disability Poor peer relationships, few or no friends
13 to 18 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bedwetting Stomachaches/ulcers Headaches Severe acne Eating disorders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low self-esteem Loneliness & isolation Extreme anger Anxious, fearful, withdrawn Uncommunicative (especially about feelings) Indifferent, no emotion Blames others, especially parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very violent Criminal activities Self-destructive (substance abuse, promiscuity, self-mutilation, suicidal ideas, delinquency, taking risks) Take on parent/caretaker role Runaway or stays away from home Protective/abusive to mom Uses violence to solve problems Violence in dating Refuses to bring friends home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor school performance, failure, truancy, dropout Immaturity Poor impulse control Few friends

24-HOUR DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE
765-664-0701

Family Service Society, Inc.
www.famservices.com





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