

Effects of Witnessing Domestic Violence on Children's Behavior & Development

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 old	<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 old	<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 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 Acts out Very aggressive (mimics abuse) Verbally abusive Defiant Very withdrawn Clingy/whining Tries not to be noticed Problems making/keeping friends Regressing to younger behavior 	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 old	<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 Aggressive Bullying Violent toward peers, animals or siblings Lies & steals Self-abusive Withdrawn or clingy Denies violence in home Doesn't invite friends to home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor grades or failing School phobia Poor impulse control Learning disability Poor peer relationships, few, or no friends
13 to 18 years old	<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 Low self-esteem Loneliness & isolation Extreme anger Anxious, fearful, withdrawn Uncommunicative - especially about feelings Indifferent, no emotions Blames others, especially parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very violent Criminal activities Self-destructive Substance abuse Promiscuity Self-mutilation Suicidal ideas Delinquency Take on parent/caretaker role 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

