



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 7, 2009

No More Fairy Tales: Traumatic Events in Children & Adolescents

What are the signs of trauma in children? Do they vary by age? How do I respond? What if I'm also afraid? How can I help my child feel safe again? Where do I seek help? Who will understand? Many questions that deserve answers from experts.

Traumatic life experiences overwhelm a person's normal coping efforts. For children and adolescents, traumatic experiences include such things as sexual and other physical abuse and neglect, peer or family suicide, dog bites, severe burns, natural disasters (e.g. floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.), fires, and medical procedures.

It's traumatizing for children to witness or experience violent crimes (e.g., kidnapping, sniper fire, and school shootings) or vehicle accidents such as automobile and plane crashes. Witnessing assault, domestic violence, rape, or murder of a parent can be very traumatic for children.

Traumatic life events are fairly common in childhood. Research suggests that 14 to 43% of children have experienced at least one traumatic event in their lifetime. With trauma may come other illnesses like depression and anxiety.

No More Fairy Tales is a community-based program designed for families, teachers, foster parents and other child care providers, in addition to the clinicians who treat children diagnosed with trauma disorders.

The presenter is William Steele, PsyD, MSW, the Founder of The National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children, located in Michigan.

Event Date: October 6, 2009

Cost: \$5

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Location: The Fawcett Center at OSU

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