

Amber N. French

Annotated Bibliography

Fosco, G. M., DeBoard, R. L., Grych, J. H. (2007). Making sense of family violence: Implications of children's appraisals of interparental aggression for their short- and long-term functioning. *European Psychologist*, 12(1), 6-16. Doi: 10.1023/A:1021405515323

Children's emotional and behavioral responses to domestic violence are described to be influenced by factors such as threat, self-blame, coping mechanisms, and the ability to justify and put reasoning to parental aggression. This article provides much detail and explanation into the importance of understanding the roles factors play in determining how a child perceives a given situation. Therefore each factor is interconnected with psychological and physical reactions from the child, allowing it to easily impact multiple areas of functioning.

I found this article beneficial because it described the factors that may or may not come into play to adjust how the child will react to witnessing or experiencing a domestic violence situation. It showed that there can be much variation while remaining interconnected. This article is excellent for my paper to show the specific ways children's perception is affected.

Huth-Brocks, A. C., Levendosky, A. A., Semel, M. A. (2001). The direct and indirect effects of domestic violence on young children's intellectual functioning. *Journal of Family Violence*, 16(3), 269-290. Doi: 10.1023/A:1011138332712

Questionnaires were given to 100 mothers relating to domestic violence, child abuse, maternal depression, the home environment, and intellectual function of both the parent and the child. The conclusion of this study specified children who were witnesses

to domestic violence (within the last 12 months) were more likely to attain poor verbal abilities, which was in turn related to more mothers (who were involved in domestic violence) showing signs of depression and a less stimulating home environment. Thus showing the readers there are both direct and indirect effects domestic violence can have on children.

This article was helpful and useful to clarify multiple interconnected factors that result from domestic violence situations. The researchers provided many examples of limitations and strengths of the study, allowing me to see what information was reliable. This will work well in my paper to show that there are multiple factors that come into play when discussing the effects of domestic violence. There isn't just one event that comes into play when a child, somehow involved in a domestic violence relationship, shows life changes as a result.

Kitzmann, K. M., Gaylord, N. K., Holt, A. R., Kenny, E. D. (2002). Child witnesses to domestic violence: A meta-analytic review. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 71(2), 339-352. Doi: 10.1037/0022-006X.71.2.339

Researchers examined 118 psychological and sociological studies to show the correlation between child witnesses and non-witnesses to domestic violence. Through group studies comparing witnesses/non-witnesses, interparental verbal aggression, interparental violence, and child social, academic, and psychological outcomes, it was reported that 63% of children who witness domestic violence were more likely to encounter social problems, academic problems, dramatically internalizing and externalizing thoughts and feelings, as well as other psychological problems.

This article was useful to show statistical data and provide proof for the differences between children who do and do not witness domestic violence or interparental verbal aggression. It did not, however, provide much reasoning or examples. This will be good for my paper to provide evidence and learning about the effects to the verbal side of domestic violence. There isn't just physical abuse, but verbal and this article does great to prove that point.

Litrownik, A. J., Newton, R., Hunter, W. M., English, D., Everson, M.D. (2003). Exposure to family violence in young at-risk children: A longitudinal look at the effects of victimization and witnessed physical and psychological aggression. *Journal of Family Violence*, 18(1), 59-73. Doi: 10.1023/A:1021405515323

Family violence exposure, violence witnessed by children, violence directed at children, behavior problems, as well as family and social demographics were studied by researchers to determine how the exposure to violence can affect children's physical and psychological aggression toward others. Questioning 682 children and mothers within a LONGSCAN study (a group of research studies operating under common by-laws and procedures); researchers were able to determine children who are labeled at-risk are often exposed to multiple domestic violence incidents that can range from direct experience to witnessing or psychological to physical abuse. The type of violence reported made significant adjustments to the outcome of the child; the study also found knowing the levels of exposure of different types of domestic violence a child is at risk of will increase the ability to predict resulting problem behaviors.

I found this study helpful to understand the type of violence does play a role in the outcome of the child's behaviors. It was very clear in examining

multiple factors that can come into play between the family environment and the social aspects of the community. This will provide great evidence in my paper to show the multitude of factors and results that domestic violence can cause through direct and indirect attention.

Meltzer, H., Doos, L., Vostanis, P., Ford, T., Goodman, R., The mental health of children who witness domestic violence. (2009). *Child and Family Social Work*, 14(4), 491-501. Doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2206.2009.00633.x

Approximately 8,000 families were interviewed regarding witnessing domestic violence, their child's physical health, neighborhood's social and economic status, and childhood mental illness history. Through this cross-sectional study, researchers were able to conclude a child is more likely to develop a behavioral or emotional disorder if there is frequent domestic violence being witnessed or acted on. However, they were unable to decipher if it was the act of witnessing domestic violence versus witnessing it repeatedly that triggered this response. Characteristic of family history, neighborhood and home environment, parental status, and age were identified as factors throughout the study.

I found this article quite useful in describing the likelihood a child would witness domestic violence while explaining and showing statistical data of different factors that came into play. The researchers provided many examples of limitations and strengths of the study, allowing me to see what information was reliable. It also provided great insights to the relationship between mental health and domestic violence. This article will work great for my paper to provide

evidence of the effects to a child's mental health after being involved in a domestic violence relationship.

Sternberg, K. J., Lamb, M. E., Greenbaum, C., Cicchetti, D., Dawud, S., Cortes, R. M., Krispin, O., Lorey, F. (1993). Effects of domestic violence on children's behavior problems and depression. *Developmental Psychology*, 29(1), 44-52. Doi: 10.1037/0012-1649.29.1.44

Researchers chose 110 children from lower-class families within the social services system to complete multiple questionnaires based on childhood depression and behavior problems in relation to witnessing and/or experiencing domestic violence. Results concluded children who had witnessed and/or been involved in domestic violence were more likely to acknowledge and explain behaviors of acting out with the purpose of getting into trouble with authority figures and admit to depression symptoms. This report also explained the result difference between witnessing and being directly involved with domestic violence, the difference between parental perceptions and children's results, as well as examples of the importance of studying the effects of domestic violence on children.

I found this article to be particularly helpful in providing parental and child understandings of domestic violence, especially children's insight to internal and external behaviors. This article will work well in my paper to show the different aspects of life witnessing and being involved in domestic violence can affect.