

# Being a Mom in Shelter, Being a Kid in Shelter

Challenges, Benefits, & Strategies of  
Response

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# Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System



- Formerly the London Family Court Clinic
- opened 1974
- 6 clinical programs
- about 24 staff
- also research, training, resource development

# WHAT ABOUT ME!



- Seeking to Understand the Child's View of Violence in the Family (2004)
- Summary of “best evidence” from the literature

# Children & Violence at Home

- We know they are affected
- Knowing more about HOW, about the mechanisms, helps us know how to help change those effects

- **Children are denied a good father and positive male role model**

- **Abuse can harm the mother/child bond**

- **Children can develop negative core beliefs about themselves**

- **Children can be isolated from helpful sources of support**

- **Unhealthy family roles can evolve in homes with domestic violence**

- **Abuse destroys a child's view of the world as a safe and predictable place**

- **Abuse co-occurs with other stresses and adversities with negative effects**

- **A child's style of coping and survival may become problematic**

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- **Children can believe that victimization is inevitable or normal**

# **EFFECTS OF COERCIVE CONTROL TACTICS ON A MOTHER**

- **woman believes she is an inadequate parent**

- **woman loses the respect of some or all children**

- **woman changes her parenting style in response to abuser's parenting style**

- **woman's capacity to manage is thwarted or overwhelmed**

- **woman may use survival strategies with negative effects**



- **woman believes man's excuses for abuse and reinforces them with children**

- **woman's bond to children is compromised**

- **woman gets trapped in competition for children's loyalties**

# Being a Mom in Shelter

- Challenges and Benefits

# Being a Mom in Shelter

- Challenges and Benefits
- Strategies of Response

# Being a Kid in Shelter

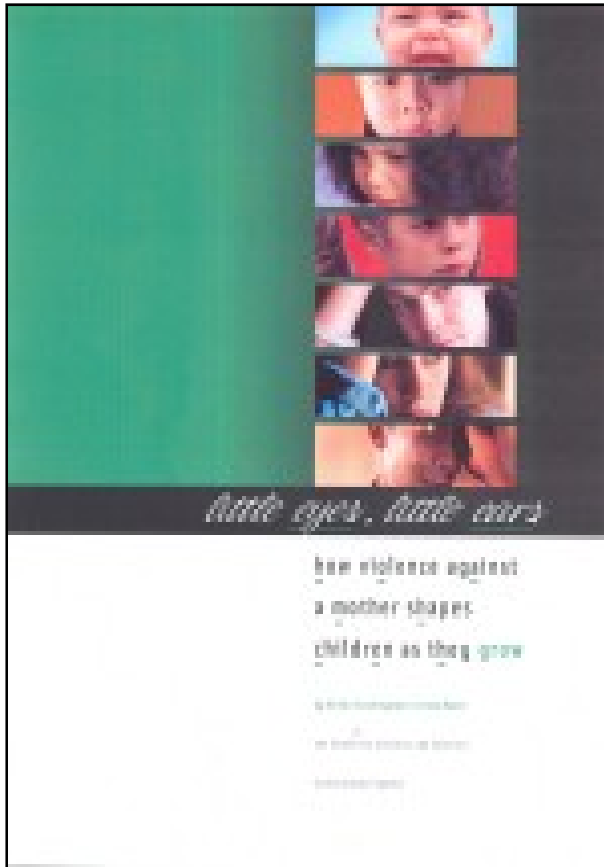
- Challenges and Benefits

# Being a Kid in Shelter

- Challenges and Benefits
- Strategies of Response

- Shelters can be challenging places to be a mom
- Shelters can be bewildering places for children
- Being aware of their points of view helps us buffer the impact
- Fostering child adjustment to the shelter milieu helps them derive maximum benefit from your more targeted supports / services

# Little Eyes, Little Ears



- How Violence Against A Mother Shapes Children as they Grow (2007)
- Get from the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (Ottawa)