

Violent children, violent adults

Age Group 6-12
Group Size 10+
Time 60 minutes

Overview

In this activity participants discuss why adults use corporal punishment through the use of images.

Objectives

- To raise awareness on corporal punishment among children
- To inform children about their right to non-violence

Materials

- Flipchart, Markers
- Paper, coloured pens
- Copies of the images (appendix): each image should be copied 4-5 times, so that each child can have one image and there is roughly the same number of each image.

Step-by-step instructions

1. Explain to the children that you will talk about people who are violent and why. You can explain that the topic might be quite emotional for some of them. You can agree on an 'out-of-activity' space in the room where the children can go to if they feel they need a break.
2. Ask the group to shout out what violence is and write their answers on a flipchart.
3. Make two columns on a flipchart with the titles 'children' and 'adults'. Explain that you're going to look at situations when children and adults are violent. Split the group in two. The children in one group should draw a situation when children are violent. The other group should draw situations when adults are violent.
4. After 10 minutes, let everyone present their pictures and ask for clarifications. Take notes in the table on the flipchart.
5. Then ask:
 - Are the situations similar? What are differences?
 - Why do people use violence?
 - Is it good or bad to be violent?
6. Explain that you will now look at some pictures. Distribute the pictures to everyone and then ask the children to find all others who have the same picture. They will form a group.
7. Ask the groups to look at all the details of the picture. They should think about:
 - What do you see? Who are the adults, who are the children?
 - What are the adults doing?
 - What are the children doing?
 - How do you feel about what you see there?
 - What could be the title of the image?
8. After 10-15 minutes, come back together and let all groups describe their images and the titles they found.

Debriefing

- Is it okay when adults hit children?
- In what situations do parents hit children?

- Will children learn discipline when they are hit?
- How would you like to be told off?
- What kind of behaviour of adults towards children would be more effective?
- How can we explain that to adults?

Explain that in many countries it is illegal to hit children, and that also all governments have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international document describing the rights of children. One of them is not to be harmed and to live without violence.

Appendix: Images

The images are taken from the Council of Europe's campaign 'Raise your Hand against Smacking'

http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/corporalpunishment/Campaignpack/Default_en.asp

