

# ***DV: The Effects on Child Witnesses***

An Introduction to the Effects of  
Intimate Partner Violence on Child  
Witnesses

# Goal of the Training

The **goal** of this training is to provide participants with basic information on:

Intimate partner violence, (IPV) and the effects on child witnesses

# Objectives

By the end of the training participants will be able to:

- Define/describe IPV in their own words
- Identify at least 3 examples of abusive behavior
- Identify 3 effects that may be experienced by child witnesses

# Definition of IPV Intimate Partner Violence

- Intimate partner violence (IPV), also called domestic violence<sup>1</sup> refers to any behavior purposely inflicted by one person against another within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm.
- Such behavior includes acts of physical aggression, psychological or emotional abuse, as well as forced intercourse and other forms of sexual coercion.<sup>2</sup> . Additional examples of abusive behavior may include screaming, withholding money. Most often, the violent person is a husband, former husband, boyfriend, or ex-boyfriend, but sometimes the abuser is female.

# Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

- More women than men experience intimate partner violence. Intimate partner violence is a major cause of violence-related injuries.
- Nearly two-thirds of women who reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked since age 18 were victimized by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, boyfriend or date. One in three women injured during a physical assault or rape required medical care.
- Women are more likely than men to be murdered in the context of intimate partner violence.



**POWER AND CONTROL**

**PHYSICAL VIOLENCE** **SEXUAL**

**USING COERCION AND THREATS**

Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her  
• threatening to leave her, to commit suicide, to report her to welfare • making her drop charges • making her do illegal things.

**USING INTIMIDATION**

Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures  
• smashing things • destroying her property • abusing pets • displaying weapons.

**USING EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

Putting her down • making her feel bad about herself • calling her names • making her think she's crazy  
• playing mind games • humiliating her  
• making her feel guilty.

**USING ECONOMIC ABUSE**

Preventing her from getting or keeping a job • making her ask for money • giving her an allowance • taking her money • not letting her know about or have access to family income.

**USING ISOLATION**

Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, what she reads, where she goes • limiting her outside involvement • using jealousy to justify actions.

**MINIMIZING, DENYING AND BLAMING**

Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously • saying the abuse didn't happen • shifting responsibility for abusive behavior • saying she caused it.

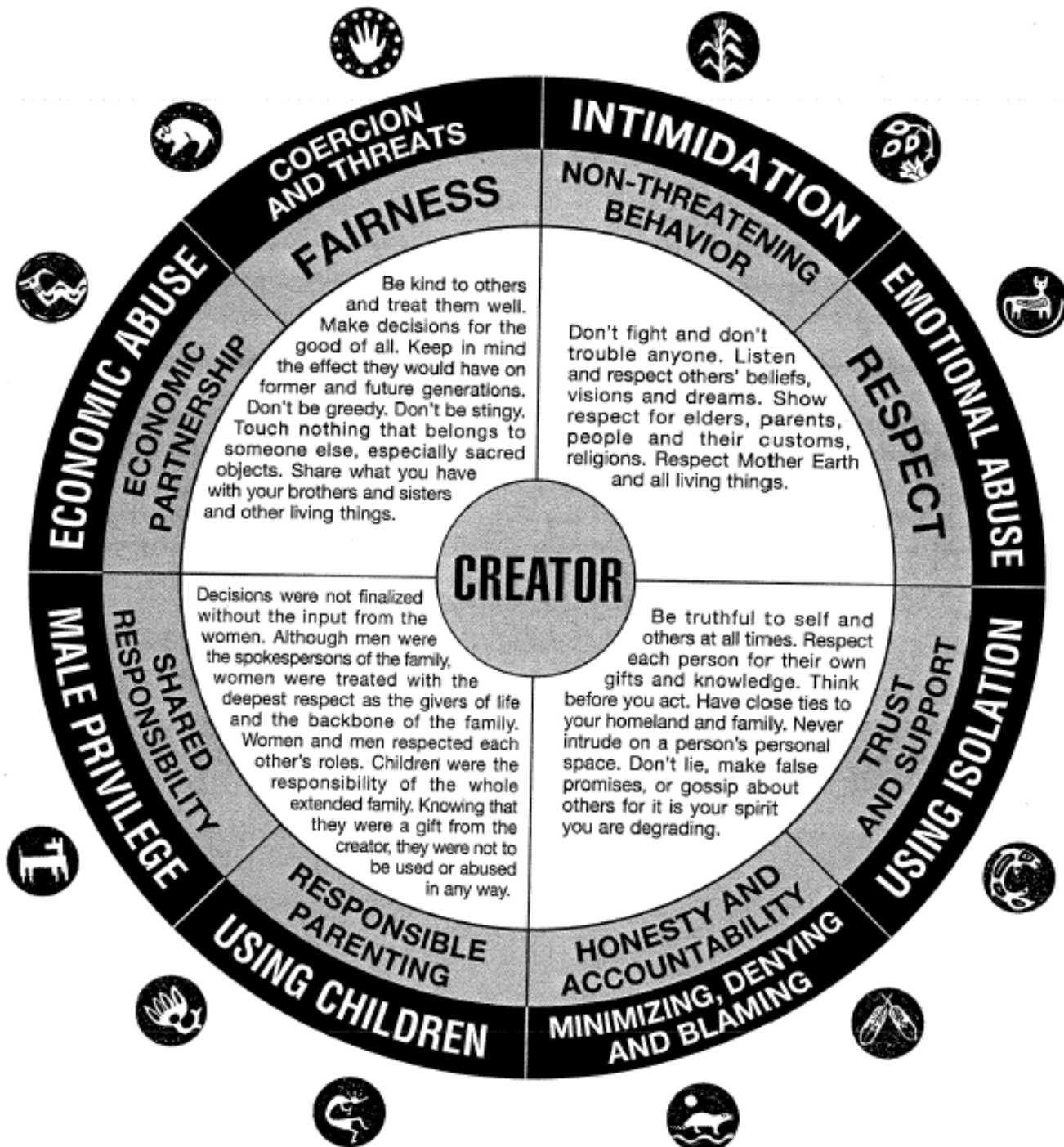
**USING CHILDREN**

Making her feel guilty about the children • using the children to relay messages  
• using visitation to harass her  
• threatening to take the children away.

**USING MALE PRIVILEGE**

Treating her like a servant • making all the big decisions • acting like the "master of the castle" • being the one to define men's and women's roles

**PHYSICAL VIOLENCE** **SEXUAL**



**CREATOR**

**COERCION AND THREATS**  
**FAIRNESS**

Be kind to others and treat them well. Make decisions for the good of all. Keep in mind the effect they would have on former and future generations. Don't be greedy. Don't be stingy. Touch nothing that belongs to someone else, especially sacred objects. Share what you have with your brothers and sisters and other living things.

**INTIMIDATION**  
**NON-THREATENING BEHAVIOR**

Don't fight and don't trouble anyone. Listen and respect others' beliefs, visions and dreams. Show respect for elders, parents, people and their customs, religions. Respect Mother Earth and all living things.

**ECONOMIC ABUSE**  
**ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

**EMOTIONAL ABUSE**  
**RESPECT**

**MALE PRIVILEGE**  
**SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**

Decisions were not finalized without the input from the women. Although men were the spokespersons of the family, women were treated with the deepest respect as the givers of life and the backbone of the family. Women and men respected each other's roles. Children were the responsibility of the whole extended family. Knowing that they were a gift from the creator, they were not to be used or abused in any way.

Be truthful to self and others at all times. Respect each person for their own gifts and knowledge. Think before you act. Have close ties to your homeland and family. Never intrude on a person's personal space. Don't lie, make false promises, or gossip about others for it is your spirit you are degrading.

**TRUST AND SUPPORT**  
**USING ISOLATION**

**RESPONSIBLE PARENTING**  
**USING CHILDREN**

**HONESTY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**  
**MINIMIZING, DENYING AND BLAMING**

# Impact on Children Objectives

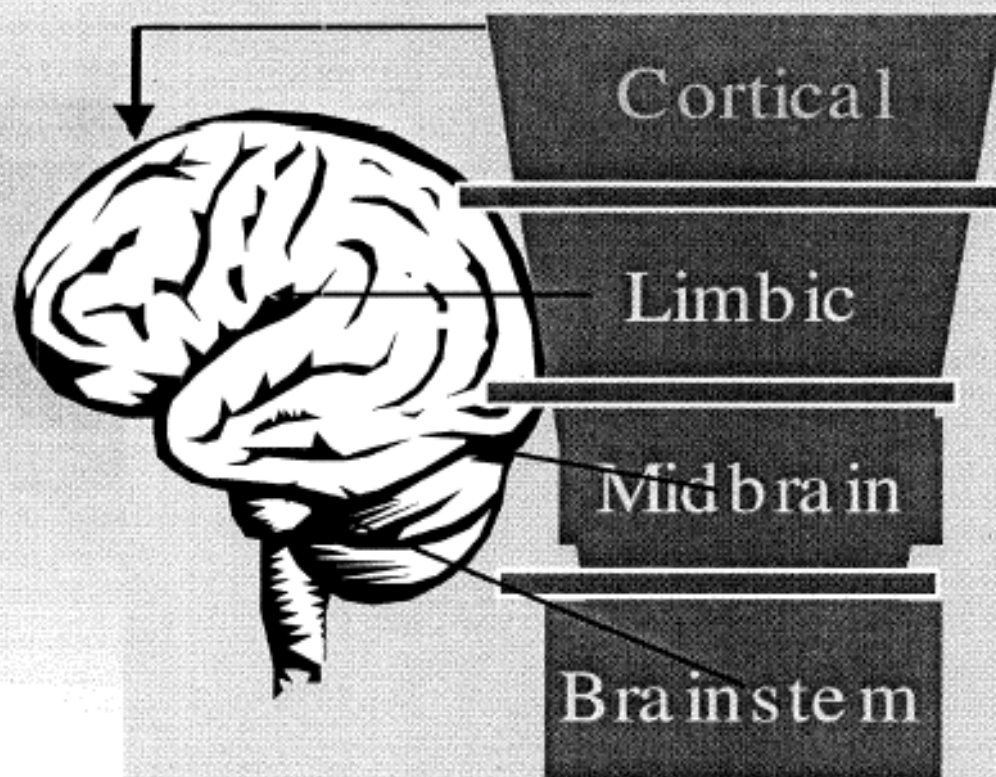
- By the end of the workshop participants will be able to:
  - Describe how children interpret violence and to identify at least 1 feeling children may experience
  - Identify at least 3 physiological symptom which may result as a consequence to witnessing violence
  - Describe at least 3 behavioral symptoms which may occur in children who have witnesses violence

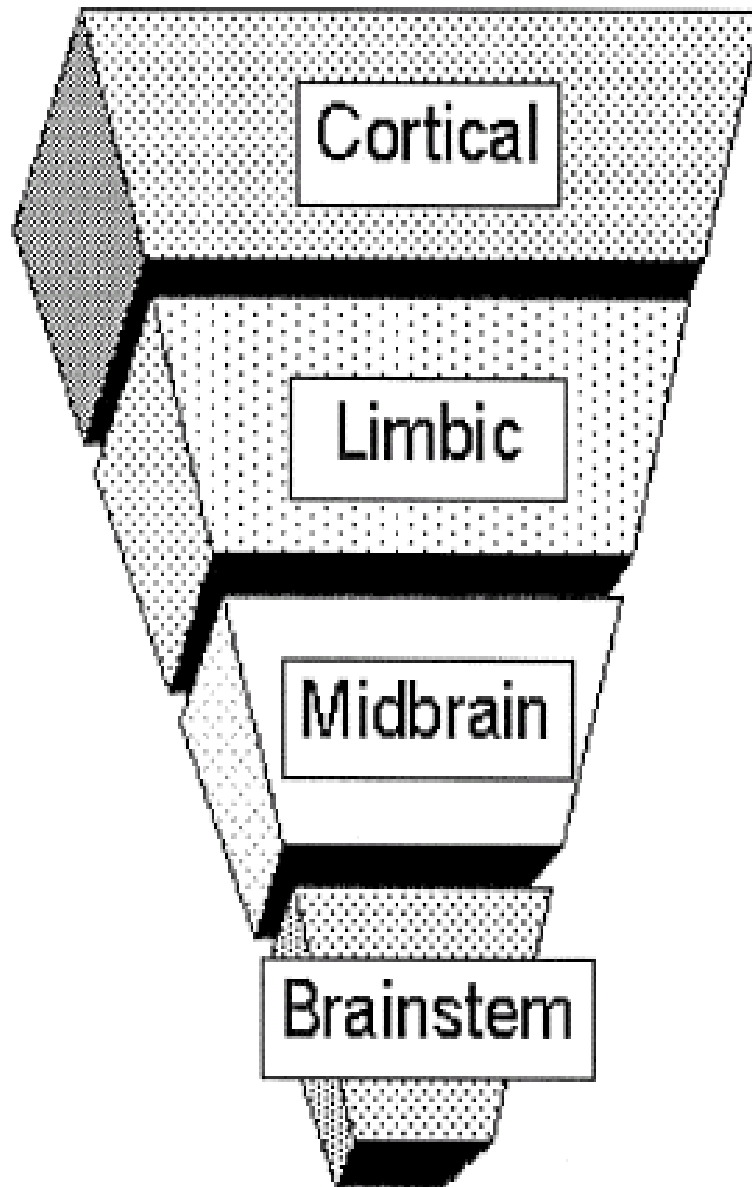


# Developmental Stages of Children

- Physical
- Intellectual
- Emotional
- Social
- Moral

# HIERARCHY OF BRAIN FUNCTION





Abstract Thought  
Concrete Thought  
Affiliation  
Attachment  
Sexual Behavior  
Emotional Reactivity  
Motor Regulation  
"Arousal"  
Appetite/Satiety  
Sleep  
Blood Pressure  
Heart Rate  
Body Temperature

## Children who have witnessed violence.....

- 50% of infants have eating and sleeping problems
- Older children may experience difficulties learning
- Children may be misdiagnosed as ADD/ADHD
- They're less responsive to adults, and cry a lot
- Violent play
- Social withdrawal
- Aggressiveness

# Helping the Child and the Parent Objectives

- By the end of the training participants will be able to:
- Identify at least 3 developmental stages of childhood
- Identify 3 ways to help a child appropriately express his/her feelings
- Identify 4 useful resources for children, their parents, and/or other caregivers who have experienced IPV