

Effects of Witnessing Intimate Partner Violence by Developmental Level*

	Infants/Toddlers	Preschoolers	School Age	Adolescents
Behavioral	Being fussy	Increased aggression and/or impulsive behaviors	Being aggressive or very withdrawn, conduct problems, disobedience	Antisocial behavior, delinquency, running away, extreme behaviors
Emotional	Crying, intense separation anxiety	Intense anxiety, worries, and/or new fears, sadness, PTSD, inconsolable crying	Fear and anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, guilt, shame, PTSD	Depression, anxiety, anger, suicidal, embarrassed about home, PTSD
Physical	Problems with sleeping and/or eating, growth stunts	Highly active, demanding, whiny, clingy	Nightmares, sleep disruptions, physical complaints such as stomachaches or headaches	Nightmares, poor hygiene, frequently ill, substance abuse, eating disorders
Cognitive	Difficulty with learning and understanding, poor language acquisition	Loss of acquired skills, self-blame, limited understanding	Difficulty with concentration and task completion (especially in school), pro-violent attitudes, self-blame	Pro-violent attitudes, difficulty trusting people
Social	Biting, hitting	Trouble interacting with peers and adults, ambivalent relationship with caregiver(s)	Fewer and lower quality peer relationships, avoiding school and/or truancy	Involved in violent or abusive relationships, lying to avoid confrontation

*These examples may not apply to all children or all situations



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