



## Abuse and Complex Living Situations

*Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library*

### PICTURE BOOKS

**Hands Are Not for Hitting** by Martine Agassi, 2002

Picture Book AGASSI

Children who have been abused or witnessed abuse can mimic what they have seen. This book offers alternative solutions for dealing with anger and frustration. (Grades PreK-K)

**Edwardo: The Horriblest Boy in the Whole Wide World** by John Burningham, 2007

Picture Book BURNINGHAM

When a perfectly normal boy experiences verbal abuse from his caregivers, his behavior goes downhill – until the adults in his life remember to look for and recognize his positive qualities. (Grades PreK-3)

**Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry** by Bebe Moore Campbell, 2003.

Picture Book CAMPBELL

Annie reaches out to her grandmother for help when her mother acts out due to mental illness. (Grades 1-3)

**There's a Big Beautiful World Out There** by Nancy Carlson, 2002.

Picture Book CARLSON

This book acknowledges the frightening things in this world, while reminding readers of the good things they miss if they don't venture out: "If you hide under your covers, you won't see the rainbow after the storm." (Grades K-3)

**One of the Problems of Everett Anderson** by Lucille Clifton, 2001

Picture Book CLIFTON

When Everett suspects that his friend at school might be experiencing physical abuse, he asks a trusted adult for advice. (Grades K-3)

**The Boy Who Didn't Want to Be Sad** by Rob Goldblatt, 2004

Picture Book GOLDBLATT

A boy who doesn't want to be sad anymore decides that the best way to protect himself is to get rid of anything that could make him sad – but discovers that he is closing off his heart to many of life's joys as well. (Grades K-3)

**Shelter in Our Car** by Monica Gunning, 2004

Picture Book GUNNING

Zettie experiences a variety of emotions and concerns when she and her mother experience homelessness after her father's death. (Grades 1-4)



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**The Magic Beads** by Susin Neilsen-Fernlund, 2007                      Picture Book NEILSEN-FERNLUND  
When Lily thinks about what to bring for Show and Tell, the butterflies in her stomach turn into grasshoppers, bunny rabbits, donkeys and buffaloes. Lily and her mother are currently staying in a homeless shelter, and she doesn't know what to share. (Grades 1-4)

**Hope Is An Open Heart** by Lauren Thompson, 2010                      Picture Book THOMPSON  
A gentle reminder that, although hope can sometimes feel far away, it is always there, and that there are people that a child can go to when he/she needs help. (Grades 2-4)

**Is A Worry Worrying You?** by Ferida Wolff, 2005                      Picture Book WOLFF  
This book acknowledges and addresses the worries that children face and suggests problem-solving and/or telling a trusted adult. (Grades PreK-3)

## NONFICTION

**A Family That Fights** by Sharon Chesler Bernstein, 1991.                      j362.82 B458F  
Henry's parents often fight and his father sometimes hits his mother, causing Henry to feel frightened and ashamed. This book includes a list of things children can do in situations of family violence. (Grades PreK-2)

**What To Do When You're Scared And Worried** by James J. Crist, 2004                      j152.46 C933w  
Written by a doctor, this book reassures children that they are not alone, suggesting techniques such as Fear Chasers and Worry Erasers, and reminds children of where to go with problems too big to handle on their own (Grades 3-6)

**A Terrible Thing Happened** by Margaret M. Holmes, 2000                      j616.8521  
After Sherman sees something terrible happen, he becomes anxious and angry, but talking through those emotions with an adult proves to be helpful. (Grades PreK-2)

**What To Do When You Dread Your Bed** by Dawn Huebner, 2008                      j618.9284  
Written by a doctor, this book suggests evening activities that a caregiver can guide a child through to reduce bedtime anxiety. (Grades 3-6)

**Sometimes Bad Things Happen** by Ellen Jackson, 2002                      j155.41 J12s  
Mentions some of the bad things that happen in the world and presents positive ways to respond to them. (Grades K-3)

**When I Feel Afraid** by Cheri J. Meiners, 2003                      j152.46 M514w  
When children feel afraid, do they know ways to help themselves feel safe? Geared as a read-aloud, this book illustrates techniques such as finding a quiet place to take a deep breath and think things over, or talking with a community helper about the situation. (Grades PreK-2)

**Please Tell! A Child's Story About Sexual Abuse** by Jessie Ottenweller, 1991                      j362.76 J58p  
Nine-year-old Jennie's words and illustrations help other sexually abused children know that they are not alone, that it's okay to talk about their feelings, and that the abuse wasn't their fault. (Grades 4-6)