

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT WAR AND TERRORISM

Compiled by Elizabeth Greef, November 2015

Because our country may be affected by an act of terrorism or because students feel disturbed about acts of terrorism or war, which they see on the news, there may be occasions when we need to talk to students about war and terrorism.

The following websites offer some useful perspectives on this.

For professional development on this topic, it could work for small groups to each investigate one or two resources and then to come up with a guide for teachers on how it might best be done in their particular school.

WEBSITES

[Helping children cope with terrorism – tips for families and educators](#)

Guidelines for parents and educators from the National Association of School Psychologists and other useful related resources

[Promoting compassion and acceptance in crisis](#)

[Supporting refugee children and youth: Tips for educators](#)

In some situations these resources may also be relevant and linked to acts of terrorism. There are numerous resources on this page from the National Association of School Psychologists

[Talking to children about violence and terrorism: Living in anxious times](#)

The Center for Social and Emotional Education put together these guidelines in the form of question and answer as a guide to discussing violence and terrorism with children

[Talking to children about terrorism and war](#) - a resource directed towards families; also available in Spanish and Chinese

[Talking to children about war and terrorism](#) – a guide which mentions strategies about dealing with children of different ages and also the need to promote strategies for resilience

[Talking to children about terrorism or acts of war](#)

A comprehensive but brief article which also discusses children's responses and whether we should express our own opinions on the matter

[How to talk to kids about war and terrorism](#)

This was created as a response to 9/11 but still rings true today. What families (and teachers) can do to best help kids deal with the fear, anxiety and grief caused by war and terrorism

[Talking to children about war, terrorism, school violence](#)

[Sesame Street: When families grieve](#)

A resource designed for 3 to 8 year olds who are grieving

Resources from *Prepare Respond Recover*:

[Recognising stress in children](#)

[Strategies for parents and teachers to assist students who are managing stress](#)

[Benefits of play and age-specific interventions Part 1](#)

[Age-specific interventions for children in disasters Part 2](#)

LITERATURE

[Using literature to explore the issues of children in conflict](#)