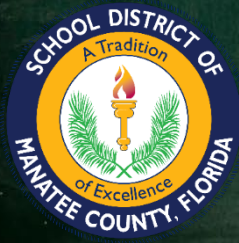




Manatee County Handle With Care Program

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Trauma



What is childhood trauma?



Why Law Enforcement, schools, and mental healthcare providers should care about trauma



Childhood trauma happens daily



The solution is Handle With Care, and we can use it to help kids



Training for Handle With Care



What is childhood trauma?

Childhood trauma, commonly called Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), are potentially stressful events that can have negative, lasting effects on health and well-being

ABUSE

- Emotional
- Sexual
- Physical
- Domestic violence
- Witnessing violence
- Bullying
- Cyberbullying
- Institutional

LOSS

- Death
- Abandonment
- Neglect
- Separation
- Natural Disaster
- Accidents
- Terrorism
- War

CHRONIC STRESS

- Poverty
- Invasive medical procedure
- Community trauma
- Family member with substance use disorder

Trauma happens here



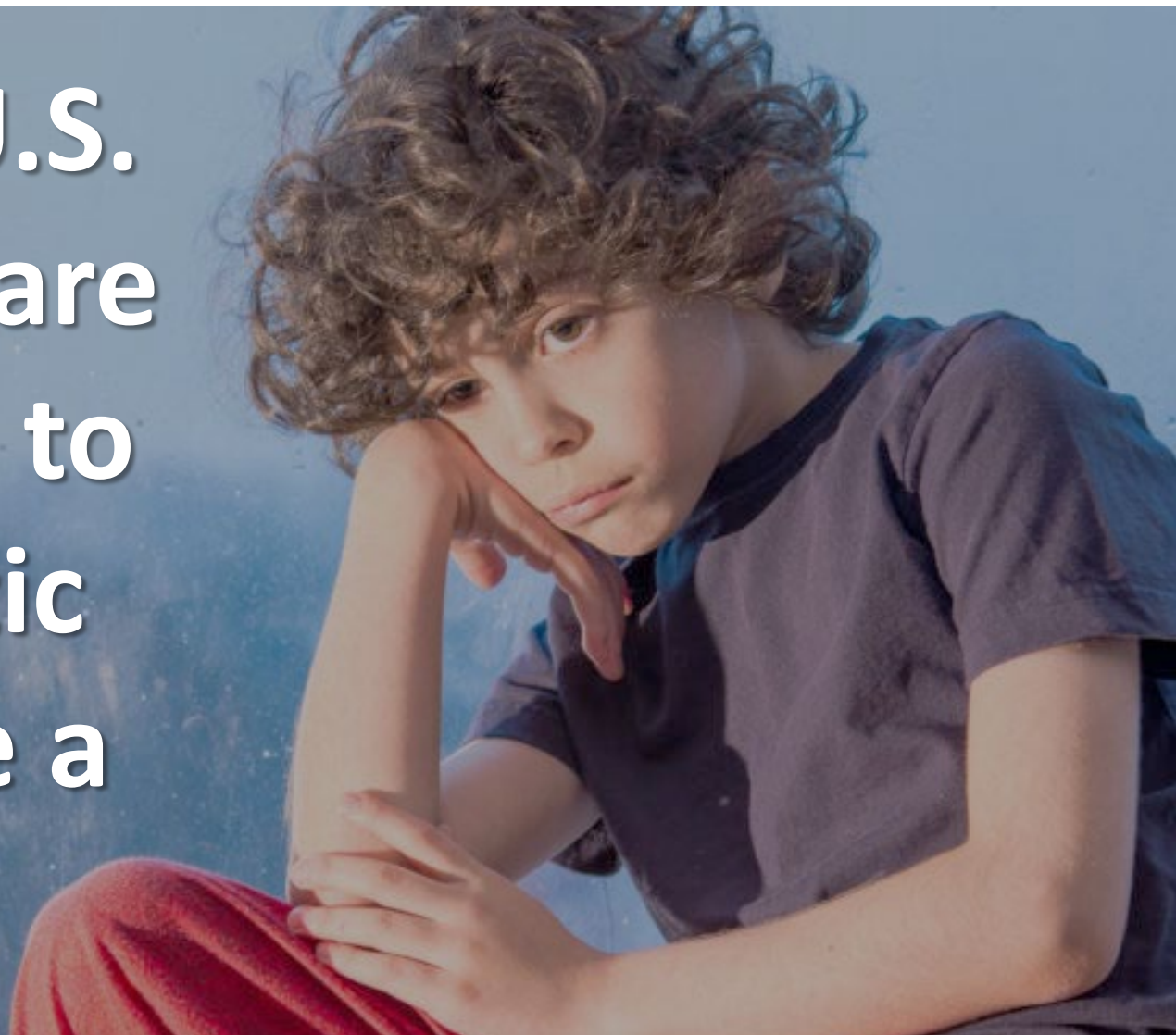
**60% of U.S. children have
been exposed to violence,
crime, or abuse.**



Trauma happens here



1 in 15 U.S.
children are
exposed to
domestic
violence a
year.



Trauma happens here

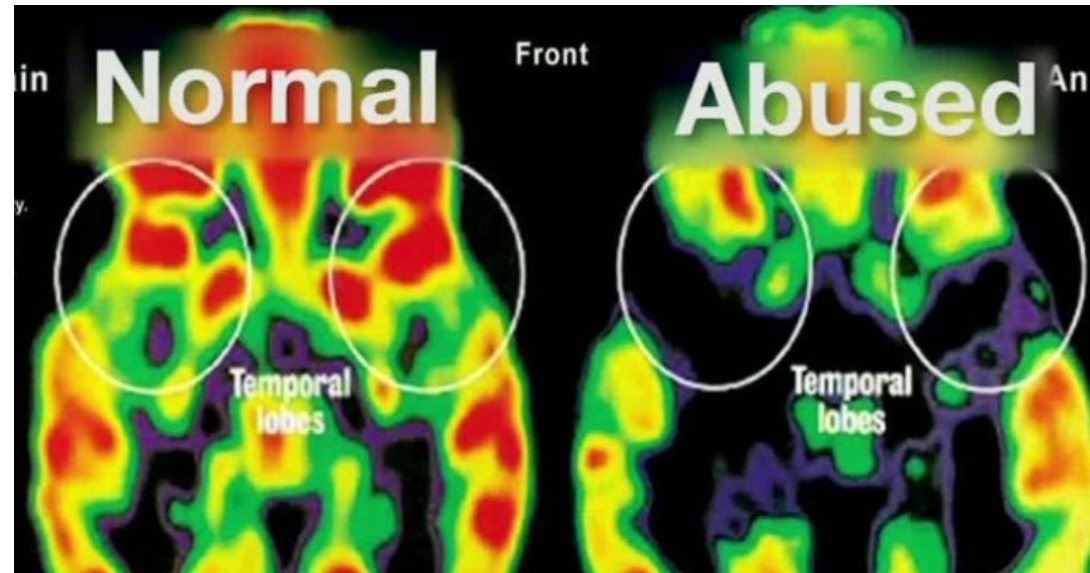


**It is common
for some kids
to face
multiple
traumas.**



What is trauma's impact?

Disrupts development of brain, brain chemistry, and nervous system.



- Impairs social, emotional, and cognitive development
- Weakens ability to regulate emotion and manage impulse control
- Disrupts development of organs, circulatory system, immune system, inflammatory response system

What is trauma's impact?



Like a needle on a record player, complex trauma wears a groove in the brain. A reminder of the trauma can cause their bodies to replay their traumatic reaction—mobilizing them to either run from or fight the threat, while shutting down other systems that help them think and reason.

What is trauma's impact?

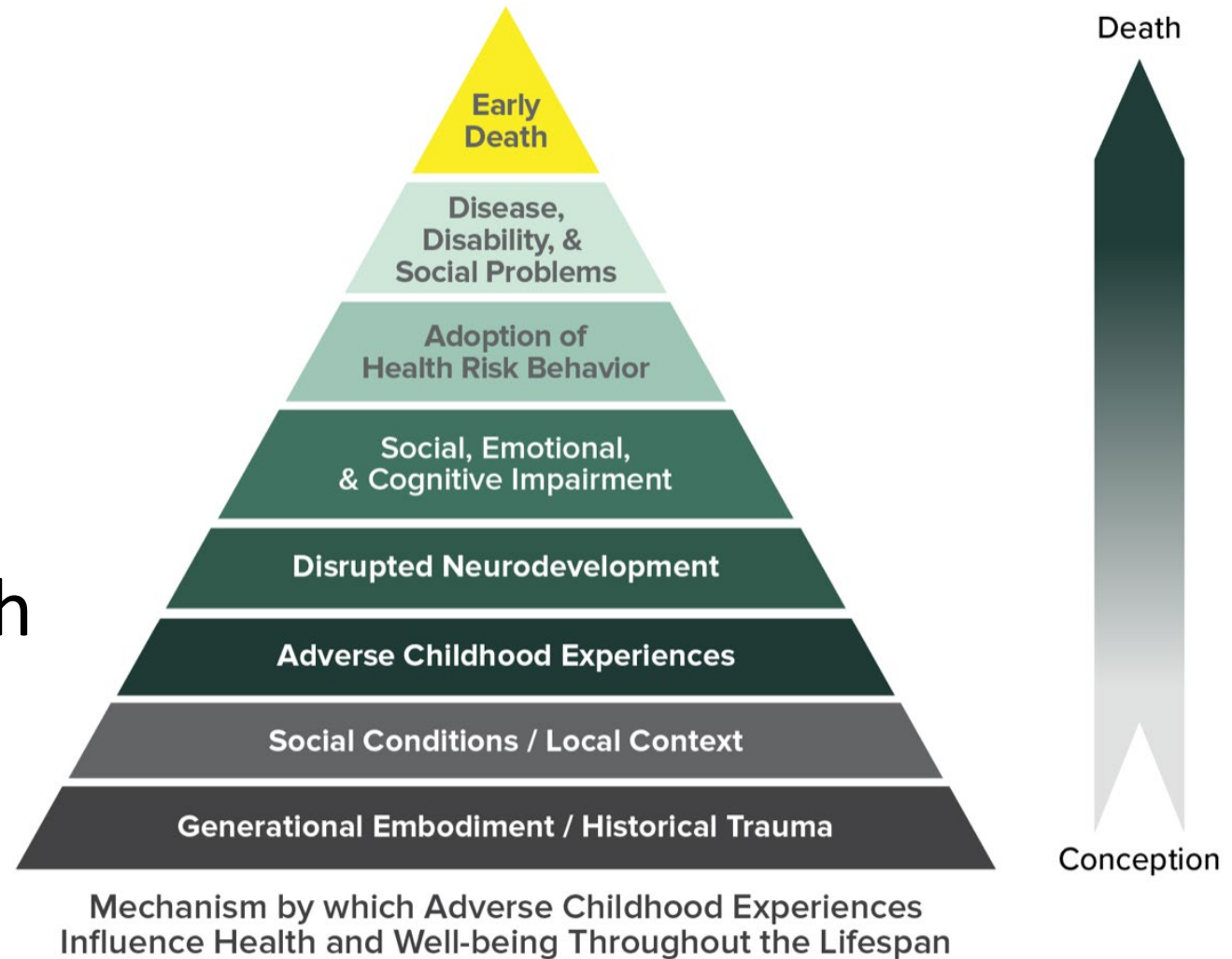


- **S** Kids have no sense of feeling safe in their own skin or their environment.
- **A** Kids don't know how to have healthy attachments to others.
- **R** Kids don't know how to self regulate.
- **A** Kids don't know how to act.

Why healthcare leaders should care about trauma



In many studies, Trauma in kids is linked to adult health and social problems.



Why Law Enforcement leaders should care about trauma



Traumatized kids often engage in riskier behaviors than their peers.

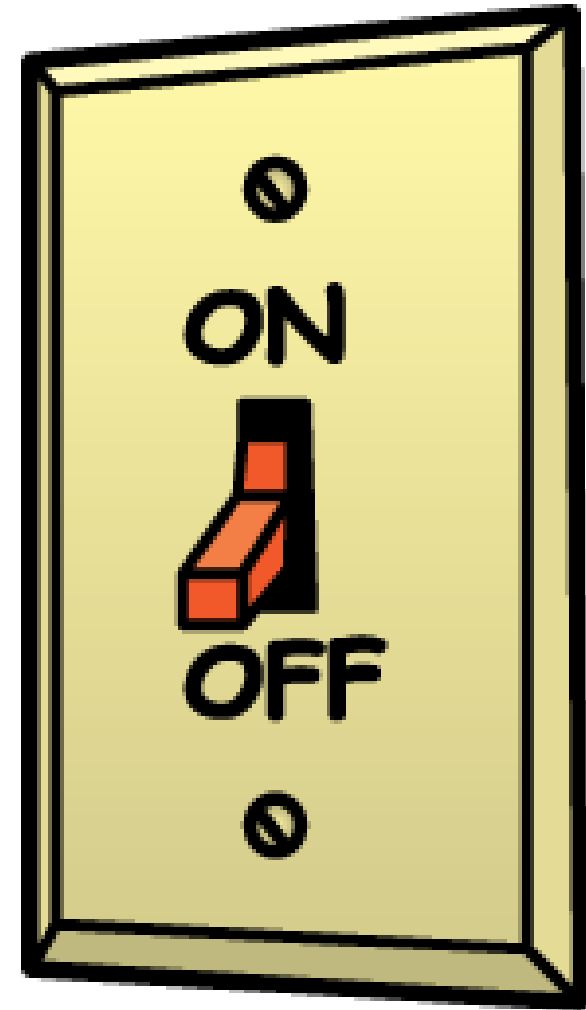


Why school leaders should care about trauma



Trauma turns off kids' learning switch!

- Decreased reading ability
- Lower GPA
- Higher rate of school absences
- Increased drop-out
- More suspensions and expulsions



Why school leaders should care about trauma



A traumatized kid sees the world as a dangerous place, including school. Unfortunately, many adopt behavioral coping mechanisms that can frustrate educators, evoke exasperated reprisal.



Reactivity and Impulsivity

Aggression

Defiance

Withdrawal

Perfectionism



Trauma happens daily



The next day in school...



Are these children:

- Hungry?
- Falling asleep in class?
- Doing their homework?
- Failing a test?
- Staring off into space?
- Having an outburst?



The next day in school...



Are these schools:

- “Trauma-sensitive schools” (safe places where kids can build positive relationships with adults and peers, learn to manage their emotions and behavioral responses, and find academic success)?



The solution:

Handle With Care



The “Handle With Care” program enables Law Enforcement to notify schools if they encounter a child at a traumatic scene, so schools and mental healthcare leaders can provide trauma-sensitive support right away, to help kids succeed.



Handle With Care:

What Is It?



- 1. Law Enforcement encounter kids at scene, send heads-up to schools.**
- 2. Schools prep trauma-sensitive support for these kids.**
- 3. Mental health providers partner for on-site therapy.**

Handle With Care:

Step 1: Law Enforcement



1. Law Enforcement encounter kids at scene, send heads-up to schools.



2. Schools prep trauma-sensitive support for these kids.

3. Mental health providers partner for on-site therapy.



The
PALMETTO
Police Department

What does the Law Enforcement's Handle With Care notification look like?



HANDLE WITH CARE NOTICE



Handle With Care Notice

From Law Enforcement, Child Welfare or other approved Professionals to the School

To: **ardilas@manateeschools.net**

From: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Incident Date: _____

The children referenced below were involved in a potentially traumatic event in the last 24 hours and may exhibit academic, emotional and / or behavioral problems. Please handle the child with care.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____ DOB: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____ DOB: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____ DOB: _____

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How else are Law Enforcement involved with Handle With Care?



Building Relationships



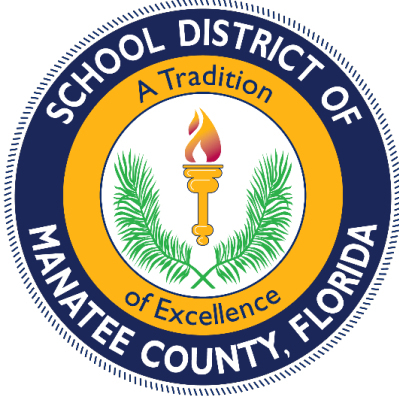
Handle With Care:

Step 2: Schools



1. Law Enforcement encounter kids at scene, send a heads-up to the school district.
2. The Student and Families Early Intervention Specialist will send a Handle with Care Notice to the School.
3. Schools prep trauma-sensitive support for these kids.
4. Mental health providers partner for on-site therapy.
5. The Student and Families Early Intervention Specialist will monitor the student and families and make appropriate referrals.

What do schools do with Handle With Care notifications?



- Notification from Law Enforcement is sent to the SDMC Student and Families Early Intervention Specialist.
- The Student and Family Early Intervention Specialist will notify all relevant teachers and staff to observe the student's behavior/ learning and be prepared to provide trauma-sensitive support as needed.
- The school will create a process to triage "Handle With Care" notifications.
- If the student approaches staff to discuss the incident, you may proceed with caution (possibly involving a guidance counselor or school social worker). According to this protocol, SDMC staff should not initiate such a discussion.
- School based interventions shall be put in place and make appropriate mental health referrals.
- For further SDMC District support, contact the Student and Family Early Intervention Specialist.
- Notification does not stay in child's permanent record.



HANDLE WITH CARE

Process Flow Chart

Handle With Care

- When a child is exposed to violence or trauma, a law enforcement officer or CPS worker will contact the identified school personnel (superintendent's designee) who will be the initial information "Handle With Care" contact.
- The superintendent's designee will then ensure notification is provided to appropriate school personnel, namely, guidance counselor(s)/social workers, School Resource Officers, Registrars, and teachers.
- Teachers will observe child's behavior and academic performance and utilize trauma sensitive interventions as appropriate.
- If child exhibits problems (emotional, behavioral, academic, physical, etc.) the teacher will refer the child to the school guidance counselor, social worker, or nurse.
- The school counselor will assess the child's needs and determine if counseling/services are needed and make a recommendation.
- The counselor or social worker will refer the eligible child to follow up services as deemed appropriate.
- The school will attempt to obtain written consent from the parent/guardian for care providers and school staff to communicate about the best interest of the child.
- School to provide trauma sensitive training to ALL school employees. A protocol will be developed to alert appropriate school staff of these child exposure incidents.
- School to provide support for law enforcement/departmental procedures.
- School to provide support (if available) for specialized trauma treatment.



A child is exposed to a traumatic event.

If law enforcement is called, they identify children at the scene and find out where they go to school or daycare.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

A law enforcement officer will contact the designated school personnel and provide initial information through a Handle With Care notice. No details about the nature of the event are provided; only the child's name and "Handle With Care" are given.



SCHOOL DISTRICT

The designated school personnel will then ensure notification is provided to the child's teachers and support personnel.

TEACHING STAFF & SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Provide:
Classroom Interventions
Awareness
Observation
and/or Support



SCHOOL COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER OR NURSE

Provides assessment and/or interventions



If Additional Support IS Needed

If Additional Support is NOT Needed

If Additional Support IS Needed

If Additional Support is NOT Needed

Continue to monitor and support as needed.



MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST

Provides on-site therapy with parental consent

Continue to monitor and support as needed.

Continue with typical classroom activities



Handle with Care Video



How do schools respond with Handle With Care?



Without HWC

With HWC

Didn't bring homework

Got a zero

Teacher gave extra time to do homework and offered 1:1 help

Fell asleep in class

Lost recess

Sent to nurse to get some rest

Got into scuffle at lunch

Received detention

There was no scuffle because he was rested and supported throughout the morning.

Didn't bring permission slip for field trip

Had to stay back and read in library

Homeroom teacher called family and got verbal permission over the phone.

What happens when a child walks through the school doors?



Food, sleep, and clean clothes

Safe, predictable and supportive environments

Connection to a caring adult; clear expectations and boundaries

Empowerment for self-confidence

Choice to develop decision making skills



How can schools implement trauma-sensitive interventions?



How can schools implement trauma-sensitive interventions?



Trauma-Sensitive Schools are ones where:

1. *Realizes* the impact of adverse childhood experiences on neurobiological development and attachment;
2. *Recognize* the impact trauma on learning and behavior;
3. *Respond* by building resilience and avoiding re-traumatization

How can schools implement trauma-sensitive interventions?



A schoolwide trauma-sensitive approach:



*No one-size fits all approach

- Benefits all children whether or not we know they are traumatized
- Involves the whole school staff
- Provides teachers with the supports they need to address trauma's impact on learning
- Looks at child's behavior from a different perspective

How can schools implement trauma-sensitive interventions?



WHEN LITTLE PEOPLE ARE
OVERWHELMED BY BIG
EMOTIONS, IT'S OUR JOB
TO SHARE OUR CALM. NOT
JOIN THEIR CHAOS.

~ L. R. KNOST

Handle With Care:

Step 3: Mental Health



1. Law Enforcement encounter kids at scene, send heads-up to schools.
2. Schools prep trauma-sensitive support for these kids.
3. Mental health providers partner for on-site therapy.

What if school trauma-sensitive interventions aren't enough?



Some kids will need to talk to a therapist (with parental permission).

If the therapist is on site at the school, appointment travel is not an issue for schools or parents.



Schools should provide on-site space for mental health professionals to see students.

What if school trauma-sensitive interventions aren't enough?



Mental healthcare providers, teachers and school personnel work as a team to best serve the child





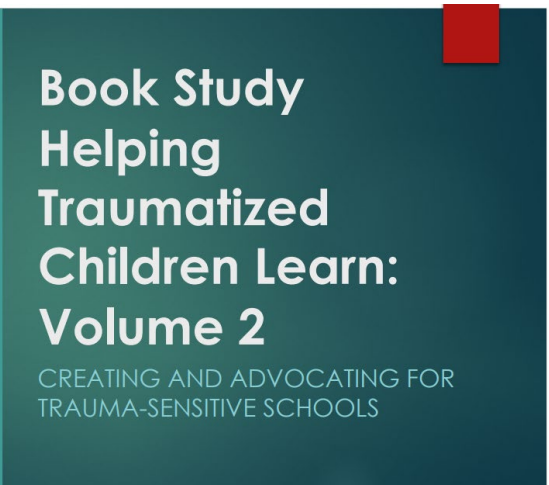
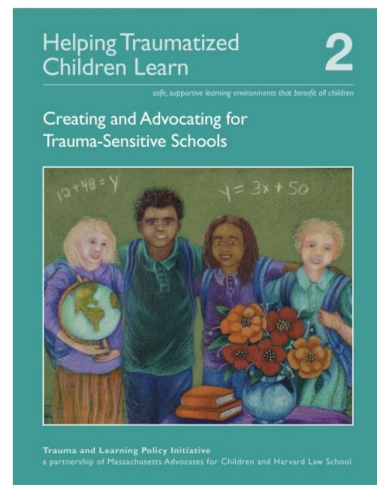
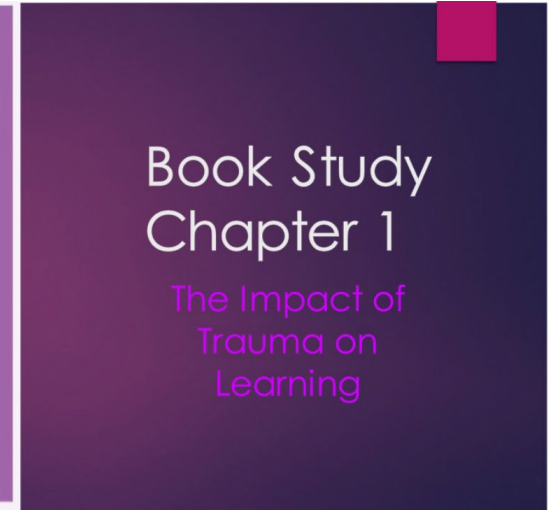
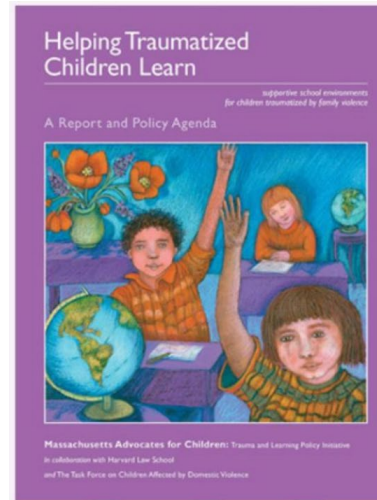
HWC In Summary

- Identifies the kids most at risk
- Provides teachers with a heads up
- Connects children with accessible mental health services if needed
- Strengthens and improves relationships in the community

Handle With Care: School Training



- Blueprint for educators and communities to ensure that children traumatized by exposure to violence succeed in school
- Understand the impact of trauma on learning & educate staff



**Let's Make Handle With Care
Successful in Our Community!**

Questions?



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