

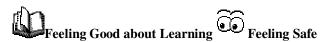
Goal of activity: Children exposed to violence may be fearful of the police. Previous trauma may be triggered because of police involvement. This activity will allow a child to experience interactions, which introduce the role of the police in maintaining safety in the community.

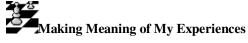
Approximate length of activity: 10 – 15 minutes

Materials: Props - pretend police car/car, paper, pen, police hat, uniform, sunglasses, desk, and phone

Instructional Procedures:

- The teacher/aide will work directly with 3-4 students in dramatic play area.
- The teacher/aide will use the script provided to generate interactions that will develop new vocabulary and model effective social communication skills.
- The teacher/aide will follow the child's lead adding comments to expand child's thoughts and utterances and asking questions to gain more information.
- Students may take turns playing various roles: police officer, victim, robber, etc.





KEY POINTS – Anxiety triggered by previous exposure to violence

No talking during the pretend play

- Allow time for the children to get comfortable with the new activity.
- Ask the children questions, beginning with yes/no questions, then proceeding to more complex questions like, "What can I do to help keep you safe?"
- Model the appropriate responses to questions with other students to help other children gain a better knowledge of appropriate interactions.

Dysregulation

- Use a soft calming voice.
- Model slow, relaxed breathing.
- Assist child in moving to another activity in the room.
- Use active listening to encourage child to talk about fear of police.

"You look pretty frightened, sometimes thinking about the police can make people feel scared."



Oral Language

 Encourage the use of more complex sentences by asking probing questions and expanding on one word answers.

Phonology

 Encourage students to find items in the dramatic play area that begin with the sound of the letter of the week.

Print Knowledge

 Include writing materials in each dramatic play area: a clipboard for an office, pad of paper for grocery lists or writing tickets, pads of paper for school etc.



"I'm going to dial 9-1-1 because I need some help from the police"

"I lost my dog, do you think the police could help me find her?"

"Hello, police, I need some help at my house"

"Hello, it sounds like you need some help"

"What can I do to help you out?"

"Where did you see your dog last?"