



## Head Start School Intervention Project

### People and Places: Dramatic Play – Police Station

**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.



Feeling Good about Learning



Feeling Safe



Making Meaning of My Experiences



**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.”**



#### **LITERACY TIPS**

##### **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.



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Police Station Script

**“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?”**