

Foreword

Many parents and families today live far from extended family members or trusted friends. Parents tell us that they do not always know where to turn for information or high-quality resources when their child is having difficulty. To respond to the growing information needs of parents and families, the National Parent Information Network (NPIN) offers easy access to high-quality information for parents, educators, and family support professionals and is now one of the largest noncommercial collections of parenting information on the Internet.

We often hear from parents that they are concerned about teasing, aggressive play, bullying, and other behaviors that might be a sign that a child or teenager is capable of violence. Parents, teachers, parenting educators, and family support professionals are often unable to find high-quality resources that provide a balanced view, in a parent-friendly format, on the difficult and complex issues surrounding the problem of violence in children. In response to requests from a variety of family support professionals, teachers, and parents, NPIN has developed this *Violence Prevention Resource Guide for Parents* as a sourcebook on preventing violence in children.

How to Use This Book

This publication has been organized to offer easy access to information on the three primary developmental stages in childhood: *The Early Years*, *The Middle Years*, and *The Teen Years*. Within each section are subsections that identify some of the issues that have an impact on violence in children, and over which parents have a significant amount of control. In addition, each subsection has been summarized as a one-page handout for busy parents. These *Parent Summary Sheets* are included in the back pocket of this publication. They can be easily photocopied so that busy parents and busy professionals can quickly grasp the important issues related to a specific violence prevention topic at each developmental stage.

The *Guide* is written primarily for leaders of parenting groups, for parenting professionals, and for parents who want more than an overview of issues. The *Summary Sheets* are useful as handouts for workshops involving groups of parents and those who work with parents.

The *Guide* also includes links to a large appendix with longer articles related to the various subsections that can be accessed through the NPIN Web site (<http://npin.org/ivpaguide/appendix/>). Portable document format (PDF) versions of these articles are available at this Web address. HTML versions are noted at the end of each subsection. The appendix includes many articles that were chosen to supplement the information in the *Guide*. The resources that were chosen for the PDF appendix were not only selected for their content and relevance to the violence prevention issue being discussed, but also because the documents are in the public domain and can be easily duplicated for sharing with parents or others interested in the topic—perhaps as part of an informal discussion group.

As with our other NPIN resources, we encourage you to share the information that you find helpful with parents, parenting groups, teachers, or community groups. Working together, we can create safe families and communities for all of our children.