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2022

Incarceration

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Recommended Citation

Schuetze, Pamela Ph.D., "Incarceration" (2022). *Sample module-themed coursework with Sesame Street examples*. 7.

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Course: Lifespan development, child development, seminar, parenting and families

Overview & Rationale:

In this module, students will consider how having an incarcerated parent impacts children. Using clips from Sesame Street, students will consider how children cope with and understand having an incarcerated parent. Students will also how having an incarcerated parenting impacts socioemotional development.

Potential Classes:

- Child Development
- Parenting & Families courses
- Seminars

Readings:

Sesame Street Workshop (2013). Little Children Big Problems: Incarceration.

<https://www.state.nj.us/corrections/pdf/OTS/InmateFamilyResources/SesameStreetLittleChildrenBigChallenges.pdf>

<https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/incarceration/>

https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/585d6736414fb5441b1d0d2e/1553999765859-JFANZH71J8S8YERVGJ20/WGUN_NOT-MONO.jpg?format=2500w

[Children's Book: In my Family](#)

Miller, K.M. (2006). The impact of parental incarceration on children: An emerging need for interventions. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 23(4), 472-486.

Hairston, C. F. (2007). Focus on children with incarcerated parents: An overview of the research literature. A publication of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Parke, R. & Clarke-Stewart, K.A. (2002). Effects of parental incarceration on young children. Paper prepared for the "From Prison to Home" Conference, January 30-31, 2002.

Poehlmann, J., & Eddy, J. M. (2010). A research and intervention agenda for children of incarcerated parents. In J. M. Eddy & J. Poehlmann (Eds.), *Children of incarcerated parents: A handbook for researchers and practitioners* (pp. 319-341). Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press.

Wright, L.E., & Seymour, C.B. Effects of incarceration on children. Michigan Family Impact Seminars. Adapted with permission from Wright, L.E. & Seymour, C. B. (2000). Working with Children and Families Separated by Incarceration: A Handbook for Child Welfare Agencies. Washington, D.C.: CWLA Press.

Video Clips:

Sesame Street Clip: [What is Incarceration?](#)

[Visiting a Parent in Prison](#)

[Little Children Big Problems DVD \(21 minutes\)](#)

[Sesame Street: Incarceration \(TV Episode\)](#)

Classroom Activities:

- A. Discuss the impact that having an incarcerated parent has on children.
 - a. Should children be encouraged/allowed to visit incarcerated parents? Is that helpful? Harmful?
 - b.** What are some programs/interventions that might be useful for helping children cope with having an incarcerated parent?

- A. Discuss how Sesame Street Supports Children who have an Incarcerated Parent
 - a. Watch the relevant Sesame Street episodes
 - b. Review the Parenting Materials in Sesame Street Little Children Big Problems

- C. Implement a 3-2-1 exit ticket:
 - three facts I learned today
 - two facts I already knew
 - one question I still have about the impact of having an incarcerated parent on children