If I'm Scared

Intended Audience: Kindergarten and First Grade Students

Prerequisite: Teacher must have viewed the video Virus of Violence. Suggested Reading; Mommy I'm Scared by Joanne Cantor, Ph. D.

Objectives: The objective of this lesson is to be able to explain to students what is the definition of violence. The students also need to be able to discuss and understand their views on violence and fear of violence, as pertaining to the media.

Overview: The students are going to use a few techniques in order to fully express their personal experiences with violence and the media. They will first be directed by teacher-led reading. They will then have a chance to talk (which will be teacher-directed) about their feelings on the particular book. We will then do an art activity followed up by a very loose assessment of what they have learned.

Needed Materials/Resources:

1. There's a Nightmare in My Closet by Mercer Meyer
2. Paper (colored or white)
3. Markers/Crayons

Activities:

1. Teacher will have the children gathered in a group. The book, There's a Nightmare In My Closet, by Mercer Mayer, will be read to the whole class. After the book is read the teacher can ask the following questions:
    a. Were you scared at all by the monster in the closet?
    b. Do you ever get scared that there might be monsters in your closet?
    c. Have you ever seen anything on TV, in the movies, or on a video game that has made you a little scared?
    d. What do you do when something scary comes on the TV? (i.e. do you hide your eyes, cover your ears, hide under a pillow, leave the room, etc.)

2. Give each child a piece of paper and some crayons/markers and allow them to draw a picture of something from a movie, television show, or video game that made them really scared.
3. Have each student (who wants to) share what their picture is all about. When they are done presenting, have the child explain to you how that made them feel. Were they scared, upset, sad, etc.

Assessment: Once all of the presenting is done you need to bring all of the kids together and ask them the following questions (verbally):

1. What did we learn about violence? What does that word mean?
2. Where do we see a lot of violence?
3. How does that make us feel?

Follow Up/Next Steps/Actions: While you have the students all together, it would be a GREAT time to make a class anti-violence poster. You could ask the kids, "What can we do if we see something extra-scary on the television?" (You might need to help steer your students in the right directions with some helpful suggestions.)

1. Tell our parents.
2. Turn off the television, or movie.
3. Leave the room.
4. Play a different game, or suggest to your friends/siblings that you play a board game, or go outside, etc. (This would be a time when you could suggest that they name alternative activities.)