Let's Stop Being Scared

Intended Audience: Second and Third Grade Students

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

Objectives: The objective of this lesson is to come up with a class definition of violence, as well as have the students understand how violence on the television, in the movies, and on video games make them feel.

Overview: The lesson is designed so that all of the students will feel comfortable enough to discuss their feelings about violence in the media. The lesson starts out with a short video clip, and moves on to a reaction time. This will lead to a discussion on the definition, which will then lead into a discussion on the provided questions. The students will then be provided with an art project and will be followed up with a share time, and then finalized by an assessment as well as some follow-up ideas.

Activities:

1. Define violence (as pertaining to the media). Start this by gathering together in a group and talking about different scenarios in which they have witnessed violence on television, video games, etc. This might have to be teacher-directed at first.

2. When you have defined violence, you can then discuss the following questions as a class.
    a. What is the scariest thing you have seen on television?
    b. Do any of you play video games? If so, do you think that those show violence?
    c. What do you do when something really gross, or violent, or scary comes on the television?

3. Once all of the students have had a chance to talk, give the students a piece of white paper, and their choice of crayons/markers. Explain that on one side of the paper you want a picture of the scariest thing they have ever seen on the television, a movie, or on a video game. On the other side you would like them to draw a picture of something they do away from the television, movies or video games, that makes them feel safe, happy and secure. (You might need to give them an example of something you do that makes you feel that way, i.e. playing tennis, going to the beach, walking through the woods, riding a bike, etc.) Once they are done, have those who want to share explain their pictures to the rest of the class. (collect them)

Assessment: Have the class come together again and ask them a few questions.

1. What is violence?
2. Where do you find violence?
3. How does that make us feel?
4. What can we do about it? (You might suggest that they make a list of alternative activities.)

Follow-Up/Next Steps/Actions: Take the children's drawings and turn them to the positive side and hang them up. You could add a headline like one of the following:

- Ways in Which We Are Happiest!
- Activities to Make Us Feel Safe!
- Non-Violent Fun!
- Anti-Violence Can Be Fun!