

FORT WORTH POLICE HANDLE WITH CARE PROGRAM



GOALS

The goal of the Fort Worth Police Department's Handle with Care Program is to help children achieve academically at their highest levels while promoting a positive interaction between the youth and our officers, despite whatever traumatic circumstances they may have endured.

Mission Statement

The Fort Worth Police Handle with Care program promotes law enforcement, school, and community partnerships aimed at ensuring that children receive resources when exposed to trauma in their home, school or community. By making a simple notification, law enforcement personnel, along with FWISD, will assure that these children receive appropriate interventions to help them cope with the traumatic event.

Police Must Focus On Childhood Trauma

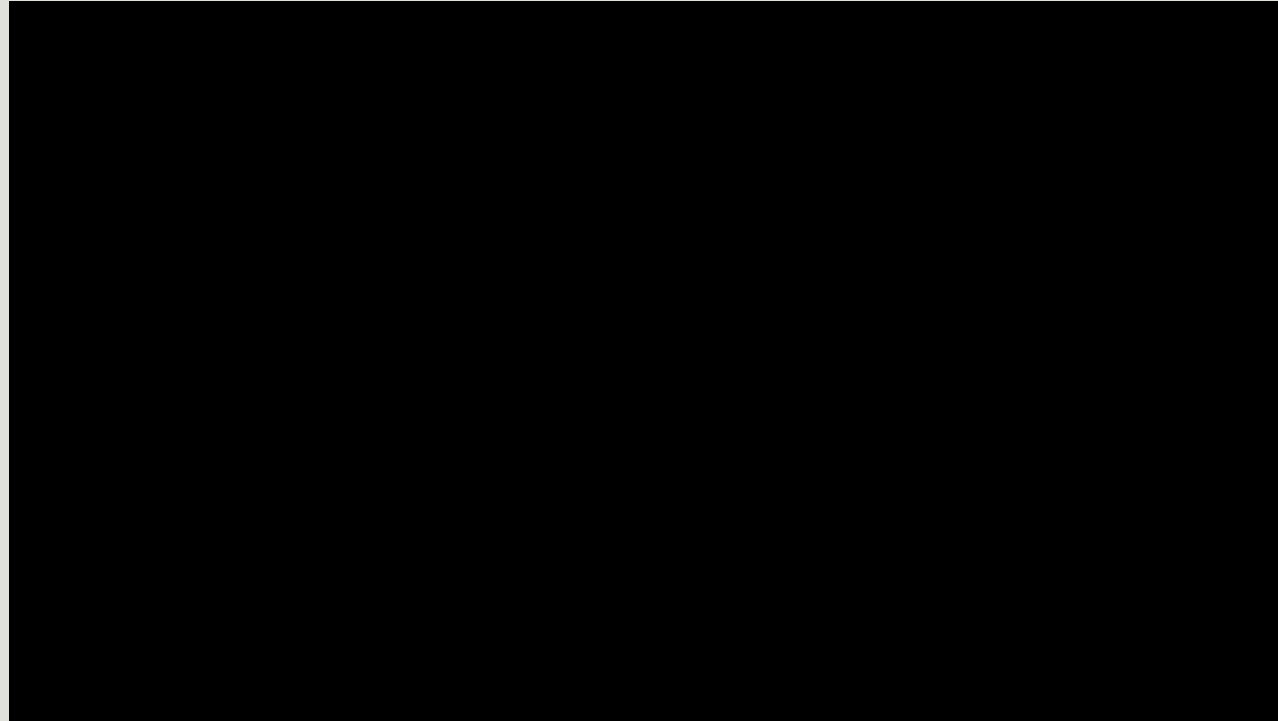
Law enforcement officials respond to traumatic scenes everyday where children are present.

Trauma in children turns off the learning switch and turns on risky behavior. Kids at risk tend to skip school, use drugs, become violent, commit crimes, and end up meeting law enforcement.

Police are ground zero for childhood trauma related to the opioid crisis, as drug-endangered children are having drug-endangered children. They have no sense of feeling safe in their own skin or environment. They don't know how to have healthy attachments to others. They don't know how to self-regulate, or how to act.

Being a victim of or witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers increases risk of perpetuating or becoming a victim of violence in the future

Handle with Care Video



Why police leaders should care about trauma



Traumatized kids
often engage in
riskier behaviors
than their peers.



Why school leaders should care about trauma



Trauma turns off kids' learning switch!

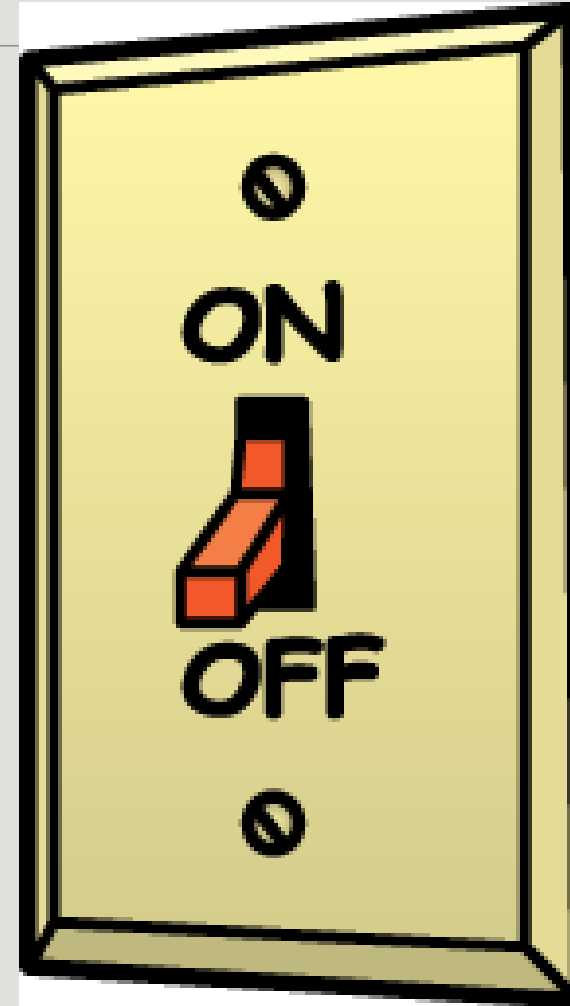
Decreased reading ability

Lower GPA

Higher rate of school absences

Increased drop-out

More suspensions and expulsions



Handle With Care:

Step 1: Police



1. Police encounter kids at scene, send heads-up to schools.
2. Schools prep trauma-sensitive support for these kids.
3. Mental health providers partner for on-site therapy.

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Officers at the scene of a crime, violence, and/or abuse shall identify any children at the scene or living in the home who have been exposed to trauma.

This may include friends or witnesses who are present during the crime, violence, or abuse.

When completing an offense/incident report, the officer will make a note at the end of the report stating, “A Handle with Care notification” was made.

How do police send a Handle With Care notification to school?



Law enforcement may send a "Handle With Care" notification by

911 DISPATCH



EMAIL

TEXT



MAKING THE NOTIFICATION

The child's name and age are sent by law enforcement in a confidential notice to Region 11 who identifies the child's school and sends the notification to the school's Crisis Intervention Counselor before the child starts school the next day.

No other information from the incident is shared except for the child's name and these three words: "Handle with Care."

What does the police's Handle With Care notification look like?



The child referenced was on the scene of police action in the last 24 hours and could exhibit academic, emotional and/or behavioral problems as a result of exposure to a traumatic event. Please handle him/her with care.

Handle with Care Notification form

FORT WORTH
POLICE

Portal Home | My Profile | Police Information Portal | police.fortworthtexas.gov

Sworn Corner | Personnel | Forms & Documents | Applications & Systems

Forms & Documents - Handle With Care Program Form

| | | | |
|--|--|---|----------------------|
| * Child's Full Name: (First, Middle and Last) | <input type="text"/> | * Child's Age: | <input type="text"/> |
| * Child's School: | <input type="text"/> | * Report Number: | <input type="text"/> |
| * Priority: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Family Disturbances- Assaults- Drug Raids- Arrest of Parents/Guardians/Siblings- Removal From Home | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Witness to Homicide/Fatal Accident- Loss of Family Member to Homicide/Fatal Accident- Threat of Death/Serious Bodily Injury | |
| | <input type="radio"/> REGULAR | <input type="radio"/> HIGH | |

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EMAIL NOTIFICATION

NoReply@esc11.net

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Fort Worth email system. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

A report was filed for the following student.

District: FORT WORTH ISD

Campus: KIRKPATRICK EL

Student: Test Student

Age: 43

Police Department: Fort Worth Police Department

Priority: High

--- District Contact Not Found ---

Who do police send a Handle With Care notification for?



A child exposed to crime, violence or abuse

If you have to ask, “Should I send a HWC notice?” then you need to send one

Send one on every child, it’s not our place to judge what is traumatizing



This Meeting



What is childhood trauma?

Why police, schools, and mental healthcare providers should care about trauma

Childhood trauma happens daily

The solution is Handle With Care, and we can use it to help kids

Training for Handle With Care

How else are police involved with Handle With Care?

