



Scary Events and Young Children:

How early educators can help children cope with violence around them

an interview with Christian Bellissimo, MSW, LCSW, RPT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 | 2 PM Eastern | ECEwebinars.com/scary

5-year-old refusing to walk down the stairs with class

Chronic neglect, multiple foster home placements.

Expressed need for control through challenging behaviors.



First sessions four months into COVID, two different children

LEFT: child who was experiencing toilet regression.

RIGHT: child expressing wish to return to school.



Exposure to chronic Domestic Violence (1/6)

Expression of fear and need for safety.



Exposure to chronic Domestic Violence (2/6)

Expression of anger towards father.



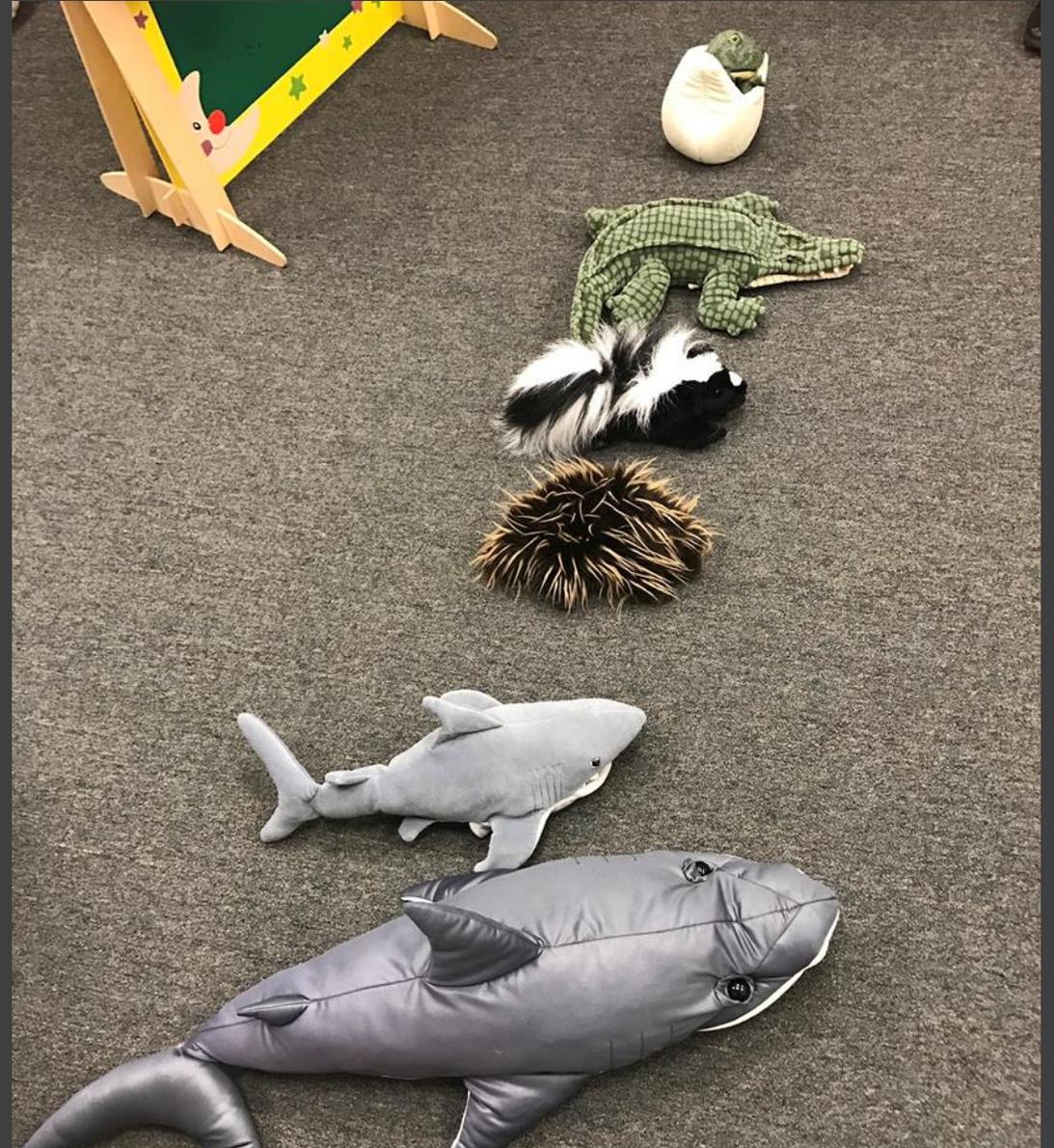
Exposure to chronic Domestic Violence (3/6)

Establish safety and control.



Exposure to chronic Domestic Violence (4/6)

Creating a clear boundary for sense of safety
and trust.



Exposure to chronic Domestic Violence (5/6)

Continued need for boundary.

Reflects gradual, increasing sense of safety
and trust.





Exposure to chronic Domestic Violence (6/6)

Child role play. Assigned therapist role of father.

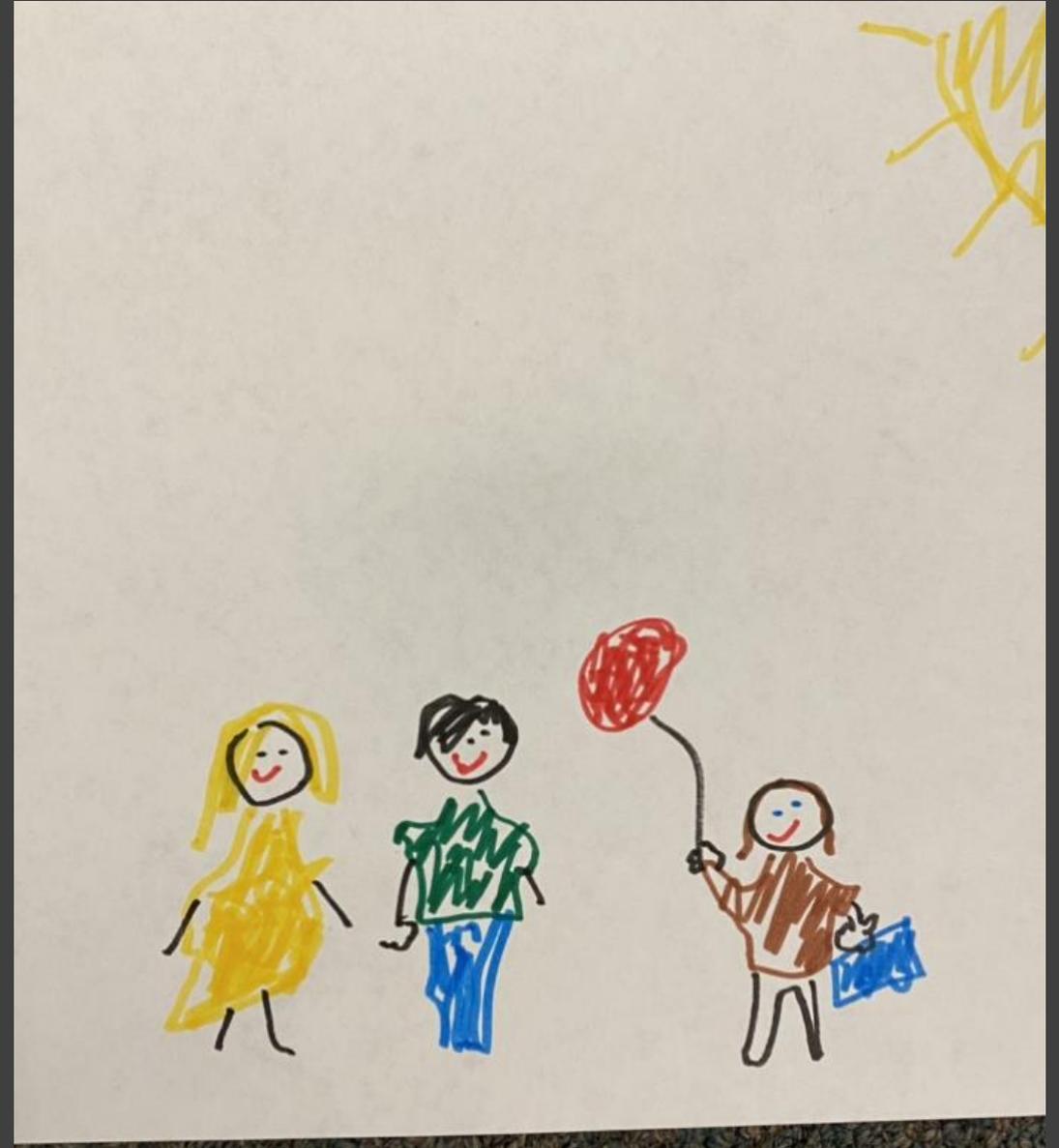
Directed in a way that was corrective and healing.

Victim of violence

Father struck in the head while walking.

Child expressed a common trauma reaction:
helplessness and guilt.

Drawing empowers child with sense of
agency and control.



Resources

NHSA's [Resources to Support Children in the Wake of the Violent Mob in the US Capitol](#)

Sesame Street in Communities: <https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/>

Child Trauma Academy <https://www.childtrauma.org/>

Adverse Childhood Experiences on CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html>

Christian's book: Universal Play Therapy: A guide for Supporting Young Children's Development <https://www.christianbellissimo.com/>

Christian Bellissimo

Christian's Website:

www.christianbellissimo.com

Play to Grow: Routine, Rules, Play!

www.playtogrowprogram.com