

**Lesson Topic**

Building Community

**Title and Author** "A Child called It: One Child's Courage to Survive" by Dave Pelzer

*This lesson has been developed for a target audience of adults in a parenting class. It can be adapted for use with high school aged students.*

**SEL Core Area(s) Addressed**

Self-awareness, self-management and relationship skills

**Book Summary**

A child called it is about a boy (Dave) and his struggle to survive his mother's abuse when he was a child. Dave was beat and tortured by his mother and bullied by his siblings and children at school. His father attempted to help his situation; however, left the family due to his mother. Dave's mother referred to him as 'the boy,' but later started referring to him as 'It.' In the book it described Dave's mother, starving and hitting him. She would not let him shower and would try to poison him by making him sit in the bathroom with a mixture of bleach and ammonia. After some time, bruises are noticed by the school nurse and the Police are notified. Dave is taken away from his mother and the abuse she has done to him.

**Lesson Objectives**

-Understand abuse/bullying and how it relates to a child's social emotional learning - to be able to come up with activities to assist children who may be facing abuse/bullying -to be able to identify when your actions are hurting a child

**Materials**

- Paper, pencils, crayons for open-mind portraits - SEL handout -three column handout

**Procedures/Tools/Strategies**

1) Each Parent will be given a week to complete the book and the group will meet after the week is over to review the book. 2) The first activity Gathering- Go rounds: Each parent will share a part of the book which stood out to them. 3) Parents will be given a handout to review SEL. In small groups the parents will list events in the book under one of the five SEL components. (Each group should have at least a person leading and another taking notes). 4) The third activity open-mind portraits: the parents will draw a picture of 'Dave' and will draw pictures of what Dave was feeling when his mother and peers were abusing him. 5) In small group, the parents will state when they have either experience abuse/bullying or has seen it done to someone else. A three-column will be created. The column topics will be: what happen, how did it make you feel, what was done to fix it? After the columns are completed, students will talk about what can be done if they see a child experiencing 6) Last activity: pop corn the

following questions: -How will you influence your child(ren) with what you have learned? -Is there anything you would change when working with your child(ren)?

**Student Reflection/Assessment**

Parents will be asked to reflection on the following: - How do you feel the group work helped you think of things you had previously not thought of? -Did everyone participate in the group activities? -As a group sum up what have learned from this lesson.

**Suggested Extension Activities and/or Additional References or Web Links**

-Take what each group has learned and work together to decided the biggest lesson learned.