Sesame Street in Communities: A Panel Presentation

Friday, January 17, 8AM \ ICPH Beyond Housing 2020
Kama Einhorn, Sesame Workshop
John Greenwood, Homes for the Homeless
Renée Wilson-Simmons, DrPH, ACE Awareness Foundation
La Shawn Hye, Project Hope Alliance
Barbara Duffield, SchoolHouse Connection
Kama Einhorn,
Sesame Workshop
The Power of Media: Offering help, hope, and healing to families in housing transition
Family Homelessness

Losing one’s home brings enormous challenges, yet families can be incredibly strong and determined to create a better future. Every family can build a sense of hope and learn ways to cope... and remember that no one is alone.

Find an Activity
Discover printables, videos, and more on topics to help the families you work with.
our mission is to help kids grow smarter, stronger, and kinder
Goals
- Awareness
- Support

Messages (the 4 H’s)
- Have hope.
- Ask for help.
- You can heal.
- Home is where the love is.
We Got This!
Printables
Homelessness
1 in 30 children in the U.S. go to sleep without a home of their own each year

Foster Care
In 2017 alone, nearly 443,000 children spent time in foster care
And in 2016, over 40% of all children in foster care were under the age of 6

The Power of Community: Offering Help, Hope, and Healing
The trauma of parental addiction can impact children’s mental and physical health over a lifetime.

Parental Addiction

5.7 million children in the U.S. live in households affected by a substance use disorder.

Last fall, Sesame Street in Communities released new resources to address this national crisis, reaching families with critical support and helping children cope with trauma, build resilience, and thrive.
Keep in touch with us!

Email: communities@sesame.org

Facebook: @SesameStreetinCommunities
@SesameStreetCommunityProviders
John Greenwood, Homes for the Homeless
Universal Parenting Places (UPPs)

Judgment-free zones where parents can:

Receive **professional counseling, information, and emotional support**
Participate in **stress-reduction exercises, parent-child bonding activities, and support groups**
Obtain **referrals** for family-related issues and concerns
ACE Awareness Foundation-Sesame Street in Communities Partnership
About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- Website: [http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org](http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org)
- Newsletter: [https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/](https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up/)
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
GUIDE TO USING SESAME STREET IN COMMUNITIES’ RESOURCES ON FAMILY HOMELESSNESS: SUGGESTIONS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

*For the entire guide, visit:
http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/guide-to-using-seesame-street-in-communities-resources-on-family-homelessness

More than one million American children under the age of six experience the trauma of homelessness, with nearly one in five children experiencing homelessness in grades K-12. As a compassionate member of the Sesame Street Community, you may wonder what you can do to help children and their families.

1. Ensure that children have appropriate and consistent caregivers. This could include families, friends, neighbors, or other individuals who can provide support and assistance.

2. Organize activities or events that promote a sense of community and belonging. These could include potluck suppers, game nights, or other social gatherings.

3. Consider providing resources or materials related to Sesame Street characters and themes. This could include coloring pages, activity books, or other creative tools.

4. Offer opportunities for children to express their feelings and emotions. This could include time for children to draw, write, or engage in other creative activities.

5. Connect children with resources and support services as needed. This could include information about local shelters, food banks, or other organizations that can provide assistance.

GUIDE TO USING SESAME STREET IN COMMUNITIES’ RESOURCES ON FAMILY HOMELESSNESS: SUGGESTIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT HOMELESS LIASONs

*For the entire guide, visit:
http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/guide-to-using-seesame-street-in-communities-resources-on-school-district-homelessness

Public schools have identified 1.3 million children experiencing homelessness, which is associated with delays in language, literacy, and school readiness for later academic problems. Children and youth who have dropped out of school or have lower income levels are more likely to experience homelessness.

1. To help increase the identification of homeless children, use Sesame Street homelessness awareness materials to help children and families understand what it means to be homeless.

2. Give all students in your program an opportunity to discuss the concept of “home.” Make copies of the “We Got This,” “A Together For All” coloring book and create a space for students to color the book. Staff can also help students identify children who are homeless.

3. Young children understand the attachment they feel to objects and places. The Sesame Street characters encourage children to talk about the things that are important to them.


5. Share information with families about the importance of Sesame Street and the connection to the community. The Sesame Street characters can provide comfort and support to children and families experiencing homelessness.

GUIDE TO USING SESAME STREET IN COMMUNITIES’ RESOURCES ON FAMILY HOMELESSNESS: SUGGESTIONS FOR HOMELESS ASSISTANCE AND HOUSING PROVIDERS

*For the entire guide, visit:
http://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/guide-to-using-seesame-street-in-communities-resources-on-homeless-assistance

Homelessness in early childhood is associated with delays in language, literacy, and school readiness for later academic problems. Children and youth who have dropped out of school or have lower income levels are more likely to experience homelessness.

1. Support families in their program or organization. Make copies of the “We Got This,” “A Together For All” coloring book and create a space for students to color the book. Staff can also help students identify children who are homeless.

2. Brainstorm with teachers and district staff ways to identify and support families experiencing homelessness. Consider making the Sesame Street characters available to all students in the school and supporting the self-identifiers. Staff may need to be caregivers for very young students.

3. Invite children to discuss the concept of “home.” Use Sesame Street videos as a prompt to help students and staff understand the concept of “home.”

4. Provide opportunities for children to express their feelings. This could include time for children to draw, write, or engage in other creative activities.

5. Connect children with resources and support services as needed. This could include information about local shelters, food banks, or other organizations that can provide assistance.

Sesame Street Guides:
SchoolHouse Connection
Resources

- Guide to Using Sesame Street in Communities’ Resources on Family Homelessness
- Childproofing Checklist for Housing and Homeless Service Providers
- Early Care and Education Advocacy: A Tip Sheet for Housing and Homeless Assistance Providers
- Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: An Overview
- Preschool to Prevent Homelessness: Research, Rights, and Resources

Resources . Handouts. Presentations.