



Call for Ceasefire

We at Defending the Early Years are horrified at the ongoing assault on the lives of innocent children as a result of the fighting in Israel and Palestine. We join the chorus of demands for an immediate ceasefire. Too many children—Israeli and Palestinian children—have been sacrificed for a war they did not begin and do not have the power to stop. We who care about the humanity of all children cannot remain silent as thousands of children are being murdered for trying to exist. We acknowledge the suffering and pain of both the Israeli and Palestinian people, and we declare now is the time to put the humanity of all children above everything else. **Nothing is worth more than the lives of innocent children, and there will be no peace until we do everything in our power to protect all children.**

We are also concerned for the millions of children across the world, trying to make sense of the ongoing crisis and loss of life. We understand that children need support to understand what it means to be living in a time of war. Children hear the news and they hear the bullying from antisemites, Islamophobes, and white supremacists all using this conflict to push their own agenda of division and oppression. We must continue to teach children why peace, empathy, caring, kindness, and liberation are better alternatives to fear, hate, and war.

We curated the resources below to assist you in supporting the children in your lives. Though we may want to protect their innocence by shielding them from this unfortunate reality, we can do more by nurturing and guiding them as they process what is happening. We must be the voice of reason, justice, freedom, and love they need.

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Resources for Parents and Educators

- ♦ **Defending the Early Years:** *Guidelines for Talking with Young Children About War*
- ♦ **PBS:** *How to Talk to Kids About the Israel-Hamas War*
- ♦ **NPR:** *How to Talk to Your Children About the Violence in Israel and Gaza*
- ♦ **National Association of School Psychologists:** *Supporting Youth Affected by the Violence in Israel and Gaza: Tips for Families and Educators*
- ♦ **Unicef:** *How to Talk to Children About Conflict and War*
- ♦ **Unicef:** *How To Recognize Signs of Distress in Children*
- ♦ **American Psychological Association:** *Resilience in a Time of War: Tips for Parents and Teachers of Elementary School Children*
- ♦ **Nickelodeon & USC Shoah Foundation:** *Talk and Take Action: Parents' and Caregivers' Guide to Countering Antisemitism*
- ♦ **National Child Traumatic Stress Network:** *Talking with your Children About Islamophobia and Hate-Based Violence*
- ♦ **National Child Traumatic Stress Network:** *Talking to Children about War*
- ♦ **National Child Traumatic Stress Network:** *Age-Related Reactions to a Traumatic Event*
- ♦ **Common Sense Media:** *How Do I Talk to My Kids About Violence in the News?*
- ♦ **The Washington Post:** *Teaching Children How to Stand Up to Hate. Here's How.*

Resources for Children

- ♦ **Unicef:** *Poems for Peace*
- ♦ **Social Justice Books:** *Picture Books About Palestine*
- ♦ **Social Justice Books:** *Picture Books About Jewish Identity and History*
- ♦ **Teach Palestine:** *Picture Books About Palestine*
- ♦ **Social Justice Books:** *Picture Books About Muslims*