Violence prevention begins in the high chair, not the electric chair.

—Rob Reiner, Chair, California Children and Families Commission

 Violence has a traumatic impact on young children: Witnessing or experiencing violence at a young age increases a child’s risk for a variety of future problems, including aggression, involvement in violence, and difficulties in learning, forming healthy relationships, and maintaining emotional health.

 Supporting healthy early childhood development is essential in preventing violence: When children’s needs for nurturing, protection, and learning are met, they are far less likely to become involved in violence when they grow up.

 Early approaches are cost-effective: Investment in early childhood programs more than pays for itself in crime-related and welfare savings.

 Violence prevention needs to start earlier and acting as early as possible, in the first five years of life, is critical to success.

First Steps: Taking Action Early to Prevent Violence synthesizes research, presents best practices, and offers a comprehensive strategy to inform violence prevention efforts targeted at the 0-5 population. The report includes 15 specific recommendations, along with case studies and suggested activities at the individual, family, community, organizational, and policy levels.

Printed copies of the report and a briefer guide that summarizes the framework, findings, and recommendations are now available free of charge (+ shipping costs). To view the reports online, please visit www.preventioninstitute.org/firststeps.html. To order your hardcopy, please submit the order form below.

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