What are ACEs?

ACEs, stands for Adverse Childhood Experiences. Mental health professionals state ACEs affect one's lifelong mental health.

How can I find an ACE score?

Two websites that offer quizzes to find an ACE score:

- ACES Too High
- National Public Radio

*Children who have high ACE scores, are more likely to have learning issues, behavioral and/or emotional issues, and may take more risks.

*It is important for educators to acknowledge students who have had experienced trauma in order to help them and to provide them with resources.



Examples of ACEs include trauma related to:

- Physical abuse or neglect
- Emotional abuse or neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Witnessing of substance abuse
- Witnessing abuse or violence in the home
- Mental illness in the home
- Separation or divorce
- Situational Trauma: weather (hurricanes, floods, etc.), events (shootings, violence), illnesses (cancer, etc.)
- And, more...

References

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA)
- Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health (MACMH)

Resources:

- <u>National Suicide Hotline</u> (1-800-273-8255)
- <u>Substance Abuse and Mental</u>
 <u>Health Services Administration</u>
 (SAMSA)
- <u>Centers for Disease Control and</u> Prevention
- American Psychological Association
- Pacer Center
- National Association for the <u>Education of Young Children</u> (NAEYC)
- <u>National Institute of Mental</u>
 Health
- <u>National Alliance on Mental</u> Illness

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