



Spaced Education Discussion Guide

Spaced Ed Curriculum 2025: Child Welfare and Domestic Violence Discussion Guide

Suggestions for how to use this guide:

This guide was created to help continue discussions around the questions and practice related to domestic violence. The questions are open ended, meant to assist child welfare professionals to reflect on practice, spark discussion, and create an opportunity to review standards and other resources provided. Consider using this guide to engage in additional conversations with your colleagues, in team meetings or even larger group settings. We encourage you to use the questions and resources below in a way that works best for you and your team.

Discussion Questions:

1. When working with a family impacted by domestic violence, what questions do you ask to understand whether the reported allegations constitute a concern for the safety of the child? Questions to consider may be:
 - Tell me about any recent injuries or accidents.
 - Where were the children during the abuse and what do the children do during the abuse?
2. Racial and cultural differences in how individuals experience, explain, or justify domestic abuse challenge CPS professionals to become aware of their own culturally based assumptions/bias about domestic abuse.
 - How do you check your bias and understanding when working with a family whose culture, values, and beliefs are different than yours?
 - We are all susceptible to culturally based assumptions or bias when working with diverse families. To learn more about the types of bias seen in Child Welfare, reference: [Types of Bias in Child Welfare](#)
3. Reflect on some examples of planning with families where domestic violence is/was present. Do planning statements (i.e., statements in either a protective plan or safety plan) require the survivor parent to control the behaviors of the harm doer? What language would you keep? What language would you change?

4. How have you collaborated with law enforcement and with domestic violence agencies and professionals in your community? What opportunities could there be for additional collaboration?

To learn more:

Below are the specific places where information and questions for the 2025 curriculum were drawn from. There is additional information throughout these resources we would encourage you to review:

Child Protective Services Access and Initial Assessment Standards

- Appendix III
- Pages 102,104-105, &108
- [Child Protective Services Access & Initial Assessment Standards](#)

Domestic Violence Handbook

- Pages 10 & 11-13
- [dvhandbook.pdf](#)

Ongoing Services Standards

- Pages 175-176
- [Ongoing Services Standards](#)

Spotlight on Self-Care:

Let's take care! We know scenario-based questions and training topics can be triggering in many ways.

- Consider this resource to help you think about ways, A-Z, to help acknowledge secondary trauma and combat burnout: [Spaced Ed 2025 Self Care Resource](#)
- And check out “**The WisconsinWell**”, where you can find tools, tips, and resources to sustain a culture of safety in your work: [Safety Culture Resources for Wisconsin DCF Professionals – Where professionals come to both be well and do well in their service to children and families.](#)