

Uniformity of Research on the Effects of Parent Conflict

“Without question, the single biggest problem for children of divorce is being exposed to continuing parental conflict.” Edward Teyber, *Helping Children Cope with Divorce*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass (1992), p. 79.

“Empirical evidence consistently points to parental conflict as the factor that most consistently predicts maladjustment among children whose parents have separated or divorced.” Robert E. Emery, *Renegotiating Family Relationships: Divorce, Child Custody, and Mediation*. New York: The Guilford Press (1994), p. 13.

“[I]t’s clear that children of all ages regard fighting between parents as their number-one divorce-related problem.” M. Gary Neuman, *Helping Your Kids Cope with Divorce the Sandcastles Way*. New York: Random House (1998), p. 197.

“High conflict between parents not only causes children immense suffering, it causes serious problems in their development.” Judith S. Wallerstein and Sandra Blakeslee, *What About the Kids?* New York: Hyperion (2003), p. 204.

“The level and intensity of parental conflict is the most potent factor in children’s postdivorce adjustment.” Carla B. Garrity and Mitchell A. Baris, *Caught in the Middle: Protecting the Children of High-Conflict Divorce*. New York: Lexington Books (1994), p. 19.

“Conflict essentially stops kids in their tracks—they are less free to go about the business of being a kid, meeting the developmental tasks that are essential to forming a healthy self.” Mary Ellen Hannibal, *Good Parenting Through Your Divorce*. New York: Marlow and Company (2002), p. 58.

“Children who are exposed to more intense conflict between parents are more likely to suffer harm resulting from their parents’ divorce. The lower the level of conflict between parents, the more likely those children will emerge emotionally whole.” Andrew I. Schepard, *Children, Courts, and Custody: Interdisciplinary Models for Divorcing Families*. New York: Cambridge University Press (2004), p. 31.

“The thing that stresses children most, sometimes for many years, is lingering conflict between their parents.” Constance Ahrons, *We’re Still Family: What Grown Children Have to Say about Their Parents’ Divorce*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers (2004), p. 80.

“Our data show that the long-term consequences of interparental discord for children are pervasive and consistently detrimental . . . [and] have a broad negative impact on virtually every dimension of offspring well-being.” Paul R. Amato and Alan Booth, *A Generation at Risk: Growing Up in an Era of Family Upheaval*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press (1997), p. 219.

“One of the most important aspects of the family environment for children whose parents are divorcing is the level of parental fighting. In fact, parental fighting is actually a better forecaster of children’s function after the divorce than the changes in the parents’ marital status . . . and the children’s subsequent separation from a parent.” E. Mark Cummings and Patrick Davies, *Children and Marital Conflict: The Impact of Family Dispute and Resolution*. New York: The Guilford Press (1994), p. 9.

“Some parents desperately hold onto the belief that children are not affected by the parents’ conflicts. Sadly, this just isn’t true. Unhappy homes make unhappy children, and every divorce will take its toll unless some corrective steps are taken.” Archibald D. Hart, *Children and Divorce: What to Expect—How to Help*. Dallas: Word Publishing (1982, 1989), p. 121.