



Author Bio

As a mother, a survivor, and one of twelve children, Gênna Green’s passion for helping vulnerable children and families is a deeply personal one. Green is an experienced advocate for children experiencing domestic violence in their families, and now she is the author of a book, Grayson’s Home, aimed at helping caregivers and professionals talk about domestic violence with children.

Growing up in a large family that struggled with material hardships, Green became intimately acquainted with the stresses of poverty and the factors that perpetuate it. While still young, she had to bear the responsibility of raising her younger siblings while her mother worked and attended school. These early experiences strengthened her belief in the importance of community, and she became determined to work in a field where she could empower those in need and help them achieve their goals, thus improving society as a whole in measurable, people-centered ways.

Green obtained her B.S. degree; her love of children and community called her to work as a preschool teacher. After working in the Early Childhood Education field for fourteen years, she transitioned into a career as a Children’s Advocate at a domestic violence agency, a role which also enables her to make a profound difference in the lives of children and families.

As a Children’s Advocate, Green has spent years providing advocacy-based counseling and supportive resources to families whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence. Her responsibilities include conducting children’s groups and providing community training; she strives to build support for children at all levels, from the individual to the societal.

Grayson’s Home was inspired by the critical need for support and intervention at the family level. During the many intake sessions Green has conducted with women and children affected by domestic violence, most parents described yelling and hitting as a regular part of the child’s living environment. Yet for many reasons, most parents will not talk to their child about domestic violence.  When the parents were asked if they had spoken to their child about the violence he or she had been witnessing, all too often the answer would be no. “No,” they’d say. “He or she is too young to understand it.” Or “I just want my child to forget it ever happened.” Children need their caregivers to help them make sense of traumatic experiences. Kids are always learning from what adults do, whether adults are intentionally teaching them or not—it is up to adults to make sure the messages they take away from these experiences are healthy. Without developmentally appropriate guidance and support, children will adapt to domestic violence in unhealthy ways, internalizing the trauma and believing that such family dynamics are normal. They may even mimic the violent behavior themselves.

The objective of Grayson’s Home is to help caregivers create an emotionally safe atmosphere in which to communicate with children about domestic violence. It also provides professionals with a gentle, developmentally appropriate way to interview and assess children who may have witnessed violence in their families. Green has drawn directly on language and scenarios provided by children in these situations, and she has chosen to use human children instead of animals in the illustrations so that children would be more likely to recognize themselves in the book.

Grayson’s Home is a labor of love by a thoughtful, empathetic expert who is passionate about helping families and children to communicate and heal.