



Praxis International
"Integrating Theory and Practice"

Praxis International
5402 North Shore Drive, Duluth, MN 55804 www.praxisinternational.org
218-525-0487 fax 218-525-0445 ruralta@praxisinternational.org

The Office on Violence Against Women in partnership with Praxis International

**AUDIOCONFERENCE
TRAINING**

**ALL CALLS ARE
FROM 2:00 - 3:30 P.M.
Central Time**

Audio Conference Training Binder

Enhancing the Mother-Child Relationship

with trainer Olga Trujillo

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

**Please call at 2:00 p.m. Central Time
Dial 512-225-3050, then enter guest code 448147#**

Things to Know:

Cost: Long distance telephone call. All expenses can be covered by your OVW training funds.

Participation: Remember to say your name and state every time you start speaking – we can't see you!

Muting: If you have any background noise during the call, please have your telephone on mute EXCEPT when you are speaking on the call. Press *6 on your keypad to mute your line. To un-mute, press *6 again.

To Leave: Hang up your telephone. This does not interrupt the session. If you need to step away temporarily, do not put the call on hold, as we may hear "on hold" music – simply rest the receiver on your desk.

Problems: Rarely, a caller may experience long-distance connection difficulties, such as a fast busy signal or message saying "All circuits are busy". You may simply re-dial the number to try to complete the call. If you have repeated problems, try using any standard long-distance calling card. Alternatively, you may use one of the following dial-around sequences: 1010636 + 1-405-244-5555 (Clear Choice – currently 5¢ / min), 1010220 + 1-405-244-5555 (MCI WorldCom – currently 99¢ for first 20 min, 7¢ / min additional), 1010834 + 1-405-244-5555 (Penny Plan – currently 9¢ / min). If you lose your connection when dialing the guest code, call in again, enter 9393 and do not press #, wait 15 seconds and you will be connected. For other problems, please call us at 218-525-0487, ext 100 and we'll do what we can to assist you.

Trainer Biography:

Olga Trujillo

ORT Solutions
Office (651) 774-7037
olga@ortsolutions.org

Olga Trujillo is a consultant and an attorney, who after nearly 13 years with the United States Department of Justice started her own consulting business to work on domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault issues.

Olga Trujillo is a survivor who has undertaken a journey to understand the impact violence has had on her life. Through her experience, she offers insight into what it means to be a survivor; what we can do to help families; and ways we can prevent further victimization. *Latina Magazine* featured Olga in its August, 2006 issue for her survival and work on these issues. She has also received a number of awards and honors for her dedication to improving the lives of women and children living within domestic violence.

As a consultant, Olga has worked with many national organizations addressing the issues of violence against women and children. A nationally sought speaker, Olga has appeared in several DV resource videos including *A Survivor's Story*, based on her experience and live presentations.

Enhancing
Relationships
Between Battered
Mothers and Children

Olga R. Trujillo

olga@ortsolutions.org

Batterer's Impact

- According to *The Batterer As a Parent* by Lundy Bancroft and Jay Silverman, Battering in itself undermines a mother's parenting in several ways:
- The batterer's conduct provides a behavioral and attitudinal model for children to learn a negative and disrespectful outlook on their mother
- The batterer's violence and threats communicate to their children that their mother's physical integrity need not be respected

Batterer's Impact

- What we know from Bancroft and Silverman(continued)
- their mother's fear, powerlessness and withdrawal is likely to be evident to the child and may shape the child's view of the mother as weak and downtrodden
- Batterers often engage children in degrading, belittling and humiliating acts against the mother
- Batterers provide implicit messages that their mothers caused the abuse or may deserve it

Batterer's Impact

- Other researchers and practitioners have similar observations and conclusions:
- Abusive behavior can undermine mother-child relationships and maternal authority in a wide array of ways (Radford & Hester, 2001; McGee, 2000; Hughes & Marshall, 1995).
- Perpetrators tend toward verbally abusive parenting styles (McGee 2000; Adams, 1991) and using the children as weapons against the mother (McGee, 2000).

Institutional Impact

- The needs and function of institutional responses can also undermine the relationship of a mother with her child
- How is she treated?
- Can practitioners understand and communicate with her?
- Are her strengths recognized?
- Is she being judged?

Rachel's Story

What do women want?

- According to Praxis International's guide, *Repairing the Harm*, Women want the following:
- Positive, Supportive Listening
- Listen with support and without judgement
- Disagree with negative things said about the child's mother in their presence

What You Can Do

- Provide Positive Support during a time of crisis
- Try to pay attention to what is really going on
- Be thoughtful in your responses
- Show respect to a battered mother around her children
- Tell children positive things about their mother

What Can You Do?

- Think seriously about how battering harms women and children
- Recognize how a batterer lies to keep his secrets or to get what he wants
- Believe that a father or step father is capable of harming children
- Help children unlearn violence

What Can You Do? (Con't)

- Give children messages that their mother is worthy of respect
- Tell children the abuse is not their fault and there is nothing wrong with them
- Notice the strengths of their mothers and let children know the good things their mothers do
- Respect the wishes of children

What Can You Do?

- Respect the wishes of battered women
- Recognize how battering exhausts a mother's energy
- Help a battered mother and her children spend stress free time together

What Programs Are Doing

- Learning about child development
- Helping mothers understand child development
- Engaging in activities to support the mother and child -- i.e. family nights
- children's groups

What Programs are Doing

- Recognizing strengths and showing the mother and her children
- Creating access to languages
- Building resilience in children and in the women their work with