

Crime



Group members will learn about the different kinds of crime, and the rates of crime in their local community and make stuffed animals to deliver to the local police force that will use them to provide comfort to the smallest and most innocent victims of crimes, infants and young children.



OBJECTIVES:

1. Group members will be reacquainted through a warm up activity.
2. Group members will learn about the types of crime that are prevalent in their communities.
3. Group members will create stuffed animals for child survivors of crime.



MATERIALS:

1. Paper
2. Pencil
3. Scissors
4. Scrap cotton fabric for the front piece
5. Scrap minky for the back piece
6. Coordinating ribbon
7. Batting
8. Sewing machine
9. Thread



ACTIVITIES:

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND WARM-UP ACTIVITY

- a. Introductions of new F.I.I.V.E. group members, staff, and guest speakers (if applicable)
- b. Warm-Up Activity (See Appendix A: Warm-Up Activities)

NOTE: Don't forget to pass out nametags!

II. PRESENTATION

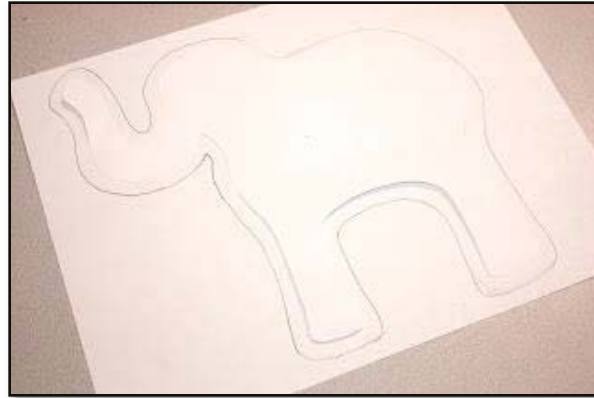
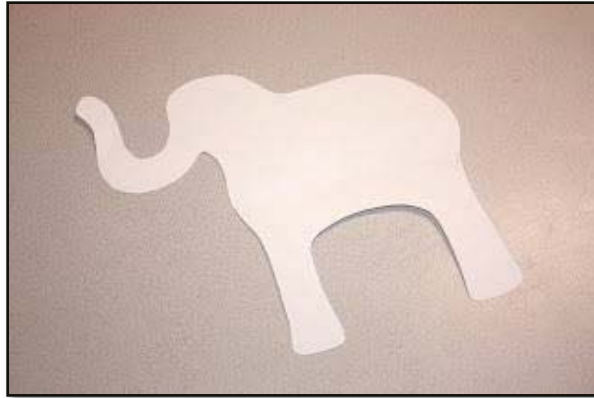
(See Appendix B: Volunteer Activity Session Scripts for presentation materials on *Crime*.)

III. PROJECT: STUFFED ANIMALS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Draw any sort of animal shape on a piece of paper. (For this example we will make a stuffed elephant). Any size will do but make sure all of the extremities (legs, arms, etc.) are wide enough to insert batting.
2. Cut out your animal and then place it on another piece of paper and trace around it about a 1/2 inch. This is your seam allowance. (Your seam allowance will be 1/4 inch, but giving it a little extra will help with the size becoming smaller as you insert the batting and give shape to your animal.)





3. Cut the larger pattern piece out and use it to cut a front piece out of your cotton and a back piece out of your minky. (Make sure you flip over your pattern after you cut out the cotton so that the soft side of the minky will eventually end up on the outside when you sew the pieces together and turn the pattern inside out for stuffing.)



4. Pin a couple of pieces of ribbon to the back end, as a tail. Always pin towards the inside of your shape so that after sewing it will be on the outside.



5. Place your fabric pieces right sides together and pin very well along the edges of your shape.



6. Sew slowly along the entire animal (1/4 inch), leaving about a 3 inch opening somewhere along the animal to be able to insert the batting.



7. Turn your shape right side out, pushing out any extremities with the eraser end of a pencil.
8. Insert your batting through the 3-inch opening, pushing plenty of batting into extremities, to give them shape.



9. Then hand stitch the opening closed with any sort of basic stitch, and knot it closed.





IV. REFRESHMENTS AND DEBRIEFING

While group members enjoy a small snack or refreshment, use the following questions to facilitate a debriefing discussion about the day's activity:

NOTE: Ask another staff member or an older adult volunteer to take notes!

1. What was something you learned today about crime?
2. How can we prevent crime in our communities?
3. Who are the professionals that enforce the law and help prevent crimes from occurring?

V. CALENDAR CORNER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Prepare the group for the next F.I.I.V.E. volunteer activity session.

- ~ Date/Time/Location
- ~ Advertise guest speaker (if applicable)
- ~ Supplies (if applicable)
- ~ Recommend appropriate attire (if applicable)

VI. RECORDKEEPING

(See Appendix C: Recordkeeping Materials to use with each volunteer activity session.)



Additional Tips or Suggestions:

- Consider If you do not have access to a sewing machine - or do not know how to operate a sewing machine – consider using fabric glue as an alternative.
- Add embellishments (e.g., buttons for eyes) and other fabric shapes to give more interest/dimension to the stuffed animals. Use fabric glue or hand stitch.
- Look for inexpensive fabric pieces at thrift or discount stores (e.g., Goodwill). Check craigslist.com or freecycle.org for free bolts of fabric. Ask fabric stores to give a donation.
- Donate stuffed animals to other emergency response professionals (firefighters, EMTs, etc.).
- Invite a police officer to come speak to your group about crime prevention.
- Alternative or additional activities:
 - Consider organizing an activity (e.g., writing cards of appreciation; making baked goods) to thank police officers on September 15th - National Thank a Police Officer Day.
 - Develop an anti-violence competition, including speech, dance, painting, drawing, singing, instrumental music, acting, play-writing, and other creative arts. Get youth to help suggest prizes. Make it a community celebration.
 - Organize to help clean and repair the parks. Well-kept play equipment and community spaces attract people back to the parks in large enough numbers to discourage illegal activities.
 - Promote public service advertising that offers anti-violence programs and services. Get several groups to cooperate in this effort.
 - Raise money to purchase a bulletproof vest for a canine officer.