



What is KidWorks?

KidWorks is a safe, supportive place for children who have experienced the divorce of their parents and its consequences. In the eight-week program provided without charge at **KidWorks**, children and their parents can share their experiences and express their feelings through play, drama, art and other creative activities under the supervision of trained, caring listeners.

Why provide support services for children of divorce?

With an attitude of “being strong” and “getting over it” toward children and families dealing with divorce, our society places value on happiness, success and health. Children of divorce may feel “different” from their peers at school, church and sports. They may also feel the pressure to not tell anyone (even in their family) how they think or feel. At **KidWorks**, the shared circumstance of loss and major changes in their lives frees children to explore, identify and express themselves and to heal from the trauma of divorce. Children of divorce who internalize their personal experience and do not have adequate support may experience depression, school adjustment problems, substance abuse, or other coping problems.

Who should come to KidWorks?

Children ages 5-18 and adults who are trying to cope with the results of divorce will find others like themselves at **KidWorks**. Groups are divided 5-8, 9-12, 13-18 and adults. Parents or guardians accompanying **KidWorks** children have a support group of their own to discuss the special needs of their children, effective parenting skills and the needs of parents dealing with the aftermath of a divorce.

What will a program participant do at KidWorks?

Group sharing, art activities, puppets, drama, and play, are some of the activities that trained facilitators will companion children through. Facilitators are trained to listen to children and respond in an encouraging, supportive manner. Children can paint, draw, and recreate stories.

What is the difference in support for children of divorce and counseling?

Support services are not treatment. They are not counseling. Support is listening, being present to children as they share thoughts & experiences, express feelings and ask important life situation questions. Support includes trusting that a child will share and heal when given a safe environment in which to do this work. It can even be fun. Children of divorce are not “broken” and do not need “fixing.” They need to be given a place where they feel comfortable enough to express their deepest hurts.

Children and families needing additional special services will be referred to licensed professional counselors in **CounselingWorks**.

For More Information Contact:

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