

Building Bridges for Kids

April 14, 2021 @ 6:30-7:30 p.m.

White River Branch. Topic: Upsetting News Stories

Conversation Starters

Help Kids Feel in Control

Encourage your child to talk. If your child is afraid about what's going on, ask about it. Even when kids can't control an event — like a natural disaster — it can help them to share their fears with you.

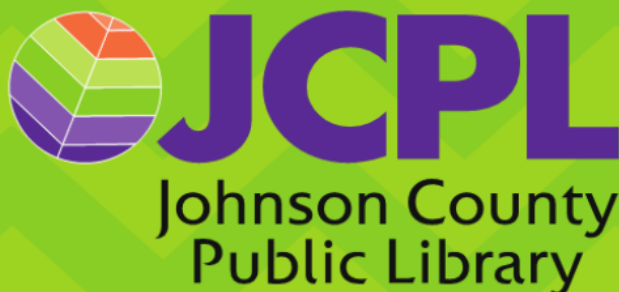
Urge teens to look beyond a news story. Ask why they think an outlet featured a frightening or disturbing story. Was it to boost ratings and clicks or because the story was truly newsworthy? In this way, a scary story can be turned into a discussion about the role and mission of the news.

Teach your children to be prepared, not panicked. For example, if the news is about a natural disaster, make a family plan for what you might do. If an illness is spreading, talk about ways to protect yourself and others.

Talk about what you can do to help. After a tragic event, finding ways to help can give kids a sense of control. Look for news stories that highlight what other people are doing.

Put news stories in context. Broaden the discussion from a specific news item about a difficult event to a larger conversation. Use it as a way to talk about helping, cooperation, and the ways that people cope with hardship.

Source: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/news.html>



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Additional Resources

- How to Talk to Your Kids About the News: <https://bit.ly/2PCjILq>
- What to Say to Kids When the News is Scary:
<https://n.pr/3t7LRmA>
- 10 Ways to Talk to Kids About Events in the News:
<https://bit.ly/3mpmKt3>

Books

- The Breaking News by Sarah Lynne Reul: J Picture REU
- Wise at Heart: Children and Adults Share Words of Wisdom: J 170.44 WIS
- Teachable Moments: Using Everyday Encounters With Media and Culture to Instill Conscience, Character, and Faith by Marybeth Hicks: 248.845 HIC
- Taking Back Childhood: Helping Your Children Thrive in a Fast-Paced, Media-Saturated, Violence-Filled World by Nancy Carlsson-Paige: 649.7 CAR

Join us May 19, 2021 @ 6:30 pm on Zoom
Clark Pleasant Branch, Topic: LGBTQ+

