Children need a safe and loving home to grow up happy and healthy. However, home is exactly where children worldwide are most at risk of violence, and it comes from those closest to them. For boys and girls growing up amid poverty and crisis, the protective role of a parent is especially critical—and especially difficult. Supporting caregivers with alternatives to violent discipline helps keep children safe and lets them develop to their full potential.

**VIOLENCE IN CHILDREN’S LIVES**

Violence against children in the home causes harm in all areas of children’s development: including how they grow physically, how they learn at school, and how they relate to people around them. It has tragic consequences for children now, but also has well-known, long-term consequences—it can lead to cycles of violence and threat the health, educational and economic wellbeing of countries and communities. Growing up in a crisis zone worsens the risks of violence and these negative effects.

**THE POWER OF POSITIVE PARENTING**

Since 2010, the International Rescue Committee has been working to reduce violence in the lives of children in crisis zones and support their healthy development by focusing on parenting. The IRC worked with displaced Burmese families on the Thai-Myanmar border and with rural communities in Liberia recovering from civil war to introduce parents to techniques they can use to communicate and problem-solve effectively with their children and discipline them without the use of violence.

**WHAT NEXT?**

The IRC is calling on governments and policymakers to invest in positive parenting programs and research like these to keep children safe around the world.

Read our full recommendations and research studies at [rescue.org/families](http://rescue.org/families)

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1. UNICEF, Hidden in Plain Sight, September 2014.