



Gateway to Success Teachers' Newsletter

Divorce in the Classroom

The CDC's National Vital Statistics Reports that the U.S. divorce rate is 3.5 per 1000 couples. Divorce is apparent in the classroom and a number of your students may be experiencing divorce or separation in their families. In fact, many of your students may have already experienced divorce in early childhood and have learned to cope, adaptively and maladaptively, to divorce. As educators, your main objective is to teach and help your students master important educational skills. However, a student's emotional well-being can hinder optimal learning and skill acquisition. Here are some things to consider if students in your classroom are experiencing divorce and separation in their families.

- Be aware of how you define family in your classroom. With divorce and separation on the rise, adolescents may now be living in households with a single parent or not with a parent at all.
- Get the parents involved and to the best of your ability involve both parents. Of course you will want to check the student's records and see who has primary custody and ask if it would be ok to involve the other parent.
- Take note of your student's academic, behavioral and emotional development. If you find that a student's performance has declined, talk to the child's parents.



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For more information contact the Director of Pupil Services (626) 943-3410

July 2010