Super Heroes and Children

These concepts seem to go together, it seems all children are drawn to these fictional characters that are able to control not only their lives, but also extend that control to others’ lives as well. This concept of being in control is appealing to all of us!!! But children are especially vulnerable to their message due to their lack of control over their lives.

Here at the Child Development Center we are teaching children peaceful techniques to resolve conflicts that occur such as telling the other child how they feel, and what they want. We also teach children to listen to each other and to recognize that others also have feelings that need to be considered. All of this is difficult, and takes time and practice. It also requires that children see that this is a model of behavior that adults use. Remember children are great imitators.

The super heroes behave in ways that are directly opposed to what we are teaching. The super heroes consistently use violence and physical power to enforce their beliefs. They do not negotiate or take the perspective of others as part of their problem solving. Children who watch these shows are more likely to be aggressive in their interactions with playmates. In addition, children who dress in the costumes or clothes depicting the super heroes are more likely to use these aggressive techniques as they ‘pretend’ they are the super hero.

Children are not allowed to wear super hero clothing at school, nor share super hero toys in the classroom. This includes items with logos or pictures referring to Power Rangers, Superman, Power Puff Girls, Batman, Spiderman, and all other such super hero characters.

Working together we can protect our children from at least some of the violence that is so prevalent in our society.