

Making Them Visible

Recognizing, Supporting, and Advocating for
Children of Incarcerated and Returning Parents

**24th Annual National TASC Conference on
Drugs, Crime, and Reentry
*April 2018***



Introductions

- Us = Who and How
 - Approach
 - child safety = #1
 - community
 - corrections
 - what's in the child's best interest?
-

I Owe You!



What We've Learned*

- ❑ Data
- ❑ Awareness
- ❑ Impacts
- ❑ YOU can support them!
- ❑ “The Services” for “Those Children”

** and continue to learn!*

Questions

What do children of incarcerated and returning parents need?

What do you need to support them?

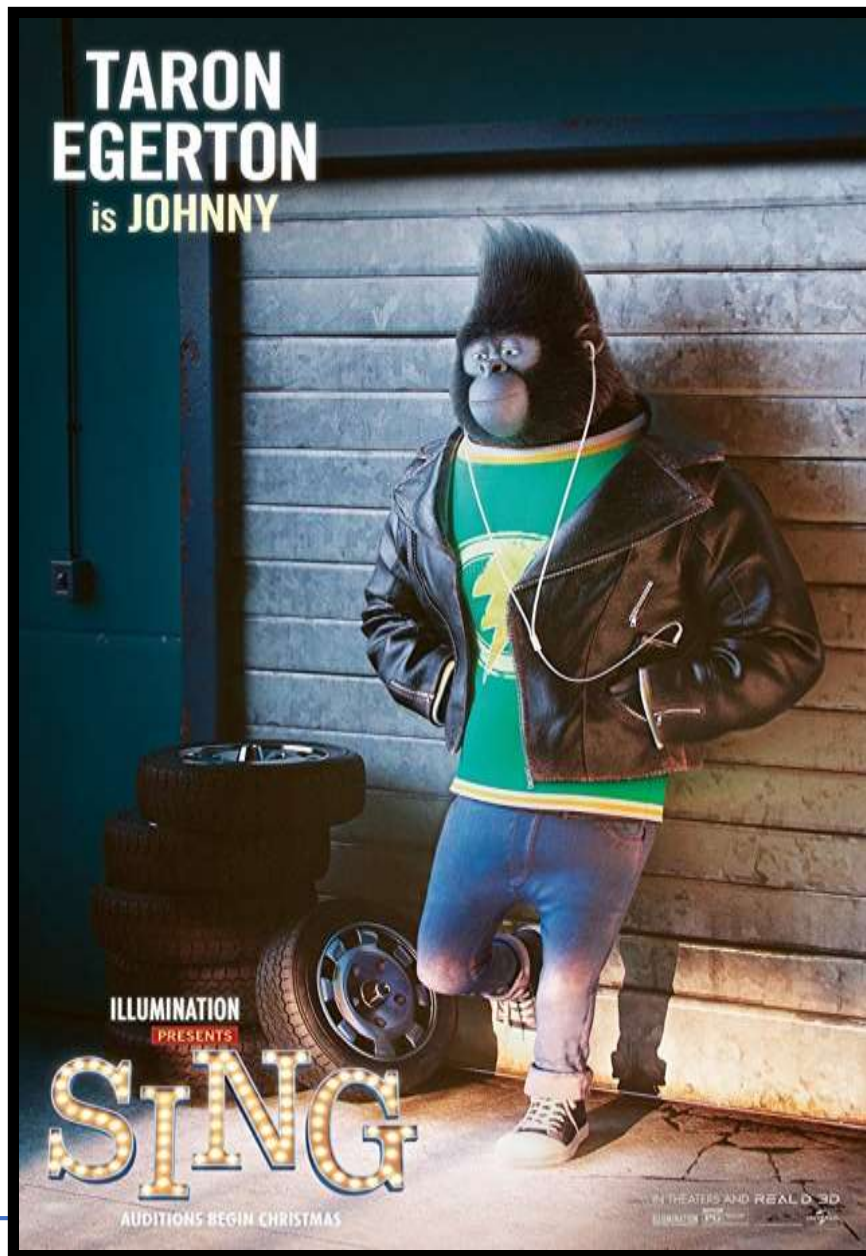
Let's keep asking those questions!



Why This Conversation?

- Don't often talk about folks going to prison
 - Overlook children/families left behind
 - Parenting from prison
 - Re-entry
 - Messages
-

**TARON
EGERTON**
is **JOHNNY**



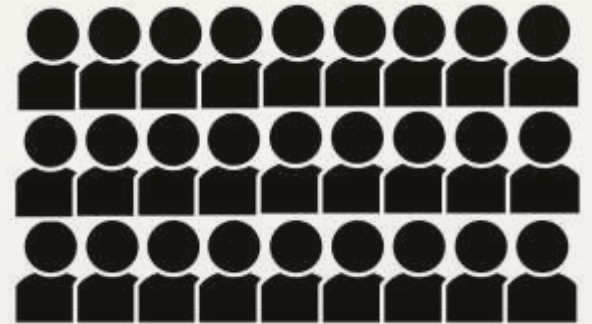
ILLUMINATION
PRESENTS
SING

AUDITIONS BEGIN CHRISTMAS

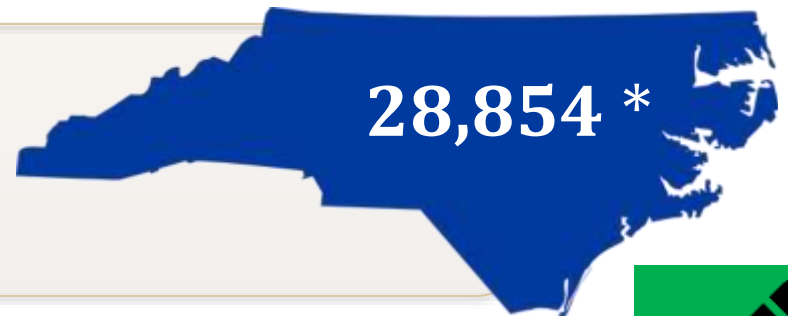
IN THEATERS AND REAL D 3D
ILLUMINATION ENTERTAINMENT

Look At The Numbers

Nationally – 2.7 million or
1 in every 28
children has a parent in
prison or jail



In North Carolina



- A.E. Casey report

LITTLE **children**
BIG **challenges:incarceration**



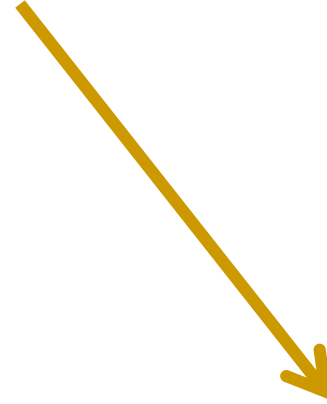
© 2013 Sesame Workshop - Photo by Gil Vaknin

Have you heard about the new Sesame Street in Communities initiative for children of incarcerated parents?

To learn more, go to their website: sesamestreet.org/incarceration or contact us at ourchildrensplace@gmail.com or (919) 904-4286.



Think About Potential Impacts



\$/resource
instability,
material
hardship

Instability in
family
relationships/
restructure

School:
behavior,
performance,
attendance

Understand Reactions and Emotions

- Shame
- Stigma
- “Conspiracy of silence”



Understand Feelings

Anger

Uncertainty

Guilt

Abandonment

Sadness

Grief

Loss

Confusion



Consider



View of law enforcement

Trauma



“Everyone’s family” = not a big deal

ACEs – trauma, shame, stigma

10. Did a household member go to prison?



Cycle of incarceration?

Think About



Child's age, stage of development



Family's emotional atmosphere (pre/post)



How remaining parent/caregiver is dealing



Family/living arrangements



What else is going on



What do children of incarcerated and returning parents need? What do you need to support them?

Think About

- ① How disruptive is the incarceration
 - ① Quality of child-parent relationship pre-incarceration; mother v. father
 - ① Nature of crime, length of sentence
 - ① Outside support available to family
-

Support The Relationship



define/develop/maintain/support



visitation



letter writing



use of technology



potential impact on **recidivism**



What do children of incarcerated and returning parents need? What do you need to support them?

Watch Out For Barriers

- ⚙ Lack of awareness
- ⚙ Children don't know the truth
- ⚙ Lack of transportation
- ⚙ Phone calls, travel = \$
- ⚙ Relationship with caregivers
- ⚙ Prison visitation space, schedule
- ⚙ Parent doesn't want the child to visit

Think About



Caregiver support



Transportation



Federal system/another state



Deportation



Jail visitation



Juvenile detention



What do children of incarcerated and returning parents need? What do you need to support them?

Take Action!

- ☑ Continue the conversation (how can we help?)
- ☑ Know what's:
 - available
 - not available
 - no longer available
 - should be available
- ☑ Consider language
- ☑ Talk with clients
- ☑ [I Wish My Teacher Knew](#)



What do children of incarcerated and returning parents need? What do you need to support them?

Action!



Pass along the Bill of Rights



ID

- ❑ who else should be part of the conversation
 - ❑ children with incarcerated parents, offer resources and support
-

Action!



Acknowledge own feelings



Learn more and ask questions




Increase staff awareness



Incorporate materials



And Still More Action!

- ☑ Include parents in activities . . . be creative! 

- ☑ Be willing to listen to a child
 - what does the child know?
 - other tough issues – lessons learned?

- ☑ Research other services



What do children of incarcerated and returning parents need? What do you need to support them?

Questions? Thoughts?

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