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Crime from a kid's perspective

Nobody thought to ask the kids. That's the reason a public health nurse launched an ambitious project to let middle-schoolers at Toki and Orchard Ridge in Madison paint a picture of the problems in their neighborhoods with a camera lens.

Beer bottles, litter, speeding cars... the kids found a variety of things that upset them.

"I want more police officers," said one student.

"We walked around, whatever we saw, we took a picture of it," said Romell Denton.

The students presented their pictures on Tuesday night.

"The kids' perspective is completely unique," said Kim Neuschel, the nurse who organized the program. "Nobody asked the kids what they liked about their neighborhood."

The idea grew out of community listening sessions over the past year focused on crime and violence in the Meadowood area.

About a dozen kids participated in the project.

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Updated: May 21, 2008, 1:34 pm

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WKOW-TV
5727 Tokay Blvd.
Madison, Wisconsin 53719
Voice: 608-274-1234
Fax: 608-274-9514
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