



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!



Did you know...?

About 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before they turn 18.¹

At least 40% of those whose victims are under age 12 are teenagers.²

Here are some things you can do to help protect children...

Engage in Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Prevention

- Parents are the right people to impart CSA information to their children.
- Knowledge about CSA helps protect children. Lack of knowledge leaves children vulnerable.³
- Parents can influence their child's knowledge and values.
- Parents can educate their children and teach them the facts.
- Parents have more influence on children's decisions about sex than the children's friends.⁴
- Begin talking to children at an early age, before children are at risk of victimization.⁵
- Repeat the message often with children.⁶
- Keep discussions developmentally appropriate, with an awareness of normal behaviors.
- Promote healthy sexuality by teaching respect and value of body and gender.⁶
- Teach children correct names for body parts, to reduce children's vulnerability.⁷
- Establish touching boundaries so children understand they can say "no" to unwanted touch.⁷
- Go beyond "stranger danger" because only 10% of perpetrators are strangers.⁸
- Establish privacy rules in the home and away from home.
- Give children permission to tell about anything happening to them.
- Talk about secrets/tricks/threats or other means a perpetrator may use to keep children from telling about abuse.⁸

For more information about how you can help prevent child sexual abuse visit the National Children's Advocacy Center's website (www.nationalcac.org) or call 256-533-KIDS.

References

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- ² Snyder, H. N. (2000). Sexual assault of young children as reported to law enforcement: Victim, incident, and offender characteristics. A statistical report using data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System. Washington, DC: U. S. Department of Justice. <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/saycrle.pdf>
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- ⁴ Albert, B. (2012). One Voice 2012: America's adults and teens sound off about teen pregnancy. Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.
- ⁵ Kenny, M. C. (2010). Child sexual abuse education with ethnically diverse families: A preliminary analysis. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 32(7), 981-989.
- ⁶ Wurtele, S. K. (2010). *Out of Harm's Way: A Parent's Guide to Protecting Young Children from Sexual Abuse*. Seattle, WA: Parenting Press.
- ⁷ American Academy of Pediatrics (2011). Parent tips for preventing and identifying child sexual abuse. Elk Grove Village, IL: Author. <http://tinyurl.com/k6v6u98>
- ⁸ Stop It Now! (2015). Prevention Tools. <http://www.stopitnow.org/help-guidance/prevention-tools>

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