

ALL KIDS DESERVE GREAT CHILDHOODS BECAUSE OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE.

One way each of us can help ensure this happy outcome is to learn what can be done to prevent the sexual abuse of children in our communities!

1

COMMUNITIES *can support healthy sexuality and community awareness.*

2

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS *can support a safe, healthy and respectful environment.*

3

PARENTS *become comfortable talking to your children about all aspects of sexuality.*



Want to learn more? Contact Prevent Child Abuse America
www.preventchildabuse.org



Prevent Child Abuse
America®

COMMUNITIES *can support healthy sexuality and community awareness by:*

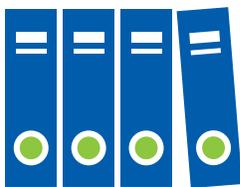
Contacting local experts such as your public health department or national experts such as Prevent Child Abuse America to learn:



***** The signs that an adult or peer may be crossing boundaries by touching or speaking with a child in sexualized ways, seeking one-on-one contact, pursuing an on-line relationship, suggesting trips or sleepovers or other interactions that seem odd!

***** Where to find resources to support parents as they learn the best way to teach their kids about healthy sexuality.

***** How to determine if the institutions and organizations serving children are doing all they can to help kids thrive and to keep them safe.



Encouraging your library to develop and promote a special collection on healthy sexual development and parenting.

Setting and enforcing standards for public advertising that avoids being sexually exploitive of children.



Limiting exposure to sexually exploitive materials such as pornography and suggestive advertising.

SCHOOLS AND YOUTH-SERVING

ORGANIZATIONS *can support a safe, healthy and respectful environment by:*

Developing and enforcing safety policies:



Clear limits on who can access the property



Rules about pick-up and drop-off



Rules about social media contact with staff and photos of children



Rules for behavior and supervision on trips to the restrooms and in locker rooms

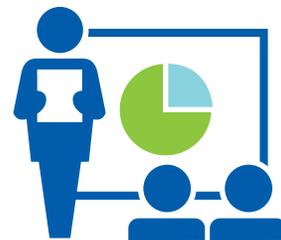


Policies to discourage sexual harassment and peer to peer abuse



Thoroughly screening all employees and volunteers with both a criminal background check and structured in-person interview.

Providing specific training to new employees and volunteers that clearly explain organizational policies. Offer comprehensive programs that include faculty, staff and parents in learning how to identify and respond to sexually problematic or predatory behavior among children and adults.



Avoid putting the responsibility for sexual abuse prevention solely on children!



PARENTS *become comfortable talking to your children about all aspects of sexuality, including:*

- ✓ **Your family's values** about healthy sexuality and relationships.
- ✓ **How all parts of their body work and their proper names.**
- ✓ **Respectful and safe behaviors** on-line and off-line.



Technology use and media exposure:



* Set limits with media. Know what children are watching on TV and online. Watch what your children are watching and determine whether it sends a message you endorse.

* Frankly discuss pornography. Explain that it's normal if their body reflexively responds to an image; that response didn't come from the part of the brain where decisions are made and has no relation to real life!

The difference between privacy (doing something by themselves, but you know about it) and secrecy (doing something that you don't know about). **Remind kids that temporary secrets, like a surprise party, may be OK, but permanent secrets never are!**



- ✓ **How young kids spend "alone time"** with teens and adults, even babysitters and relatives.
- ✓ The type of touch they have with peers or adults; **encourage them to set limits.**
- ✓ Their questions about anything to do with sexuality in real life or on-line. **If you don't know the answer, you can figure it out together.**

