



Erin's Law

Sexual Abuse Education
Sycamore Middle School

What is Erin's Law?

- Erin's Law is named after author, speaker and activist, Erin Merryn
- Erin is a childhood sexual abuse survivor, who introduced an Illinois law that was named after her
- The law is designed to teach students techniques to recognize sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult

What is Abuse?

- Definition of Abuse
 - Intimidation or manipulation of another person

- Abusive relationships are about getting and keeping power and control



- Abuse can happen to all types of people

What is Sexual Abuse?

Sexual Abuse - Pressuring or forcing someone to participate in sexual activities they do not want to do or making a person feel uncomfortable or unsafe

Examples:

- inappropriate comments or words
- not respecting personal boundaries
- inappropriate touch
- not respecting when someone says “no”
- inappropriate acts on social media

Staying Safe

- Our bodies
 - Comfortable & uncomfortable touch
 - You are in control of your body
 - No one has the right to touch you without your permission
- Remember your “Internal Alarm”
 - “Trust your gut”
 - Know what to do in an emergency

Staying Safe

- Good vs Bad Secrets
 - Good Secret: Surprise birthday party
 - Bad Secret: a threat “don't say anything or else...”
- Grooming/Luring:
 - Hooking you in with false promises or threats

Staying Safe

- Be assertive
 - Say “no”
 - Leave the situation
 - Find a safe/trusted adult
- It is okay to talk to an adult if a friend tells you they have been hurt or abused
 - There is a difference between reporting threatening or dangerous situations and gossiping or snitching

Staying Safe

- Phone Use
 - Apps
 - Texting
 - YouTube
- Gaming Systems
- Ipad/ Computer/ Laptop

Speak Up for Yourself!

Tell Someone if:

- A relationship or situation feels unsafe
- You are being emotionally or physically threatened or harmed
- You have an uncomfortable feeling about a relationship or situation with a friend or adult
- You feel powerless in a relationship or situation
- You are feeling peer pressure
- A friend tells you they are unsafe or in danger

Things to Remember

- No one deserves to be abused or threatened. It is not the victim's fault.
- You have a right to ask for help. Reporting abuse will not get you in trouble.
- Talk to an adult you trust
- You need to take care of yourself
- Sexual Abuse victims are both male and female

Who can help?

- Trusted adult - parent, friend's parent, police officer, religious member, sports coach
- School - social worker, school counselor, school nurse, teacher, coach, principal
- **KEEP TALKING UNTIL SOMEONE HELPS!**



Questions

If you have any questions, please talk with:

- Mrs. Blevins
- Mrs. Gentile
- Mrs. Hoerchler
- Ms. McCurdy

