

May 25, 2022

Dear Haldane Community:

We grieve for the victims and families impacted by the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. This event, and those of similar nature that have occurred all too frequently in our schools, are deeply unsettling.

Our teachers have received the following resources from our support staff for reference today, and you may find them helpful, as well.

[Helping Children With Tragic Events in the News - PBS](#)

Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Families and Educators - NASP (attached)

Today the New York State Police and the Putnam County Sheriff's Office have increased police presence in and around our schools. This is a precautionary measure - there are no known threats to our schools. That being said, we are appreciative of the Sheriff's Department and State Police for their support.

This incident, and others that have occurred in the past, prompt reasonable questions about the safety and security measures that we take on campus. Please know that we regularly work with our safety and security consultant, Altaris, and our partners in law enforcement to validate our best practices, identify improvement opportunities, train our staff, and maintain strong emergency response procedures. While the details of these plans are confidential, I can assure you that the safety and security of our students and staff remain our priority.

Thank you for your continued support as we seek to keep our schools as safe as possible for our students and staff.

Sincerely,  
Phil Benante, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Estimada comunidad de Haldane:

Nos afligimos por las víctimas y las familias afectadas por el tiroteo en la escuela de Uvalde, Texas. Este evento, y otros de naturaleza similar que han ocurrido con demasiada frecuencia en nuestras escuelas, son profundamente inquietantes.

Nuestros maestros han recibido los siguientes recursos de nuestro personal de apoyo como referencia hoy, y también pueden resultarles útiles.

[Ayudando a los niños con eventos trágicos en las noticias - PBS](#)

Hablar con los niños sobre la violencia: consejos para familias y educadores - NASP (adjunto)

Hoy, la Policía del Estado de Nueva York y la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Putnam han aumentado la presencia policial en nuestras escuelas y sus alrededores. Esta es una medida de precaución: no se conocen amenazas para nuestras escuelas. Dicho esto, estamos agradecidos con el Departamento del Sheriff y la Policía Estatal por su apoyo.

Este incidente, y otros que han ocurrido en el pasado, generan preguntas razonables sobre las medidas de seguridad que tomamos en el campus. Tenga en cuenta que trabajamos regularmente con nuestro consultor de seguridad y protección, Altaris, y nuestros socios en la aplicación de la ley para validar nuestras mejores prácticas, identificar oportunidades de mejora, capacitar a nuestro personal y mantener sólidos procedimientos de respuesta a emergencias. Si bien los detalles de estos planes son confidenciales, puedo asegurarles que la seguridad de nuestros estudiantes y personal sigue siendo nuestra prioridad.

Gracias por su continuo apoyo mientras buscamos mantener nuestras escuelas lo más seguras posible para nuestros estudiantes y personal.

Sinceramente,  
Phil Benante, Ed. D.  
superintendente de escuelas

# TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT VIOLENCE: TIPS FOR FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS

Families and school personnel play a critical role in helping to reestablish a sense of normalcy and security for children after an act of violence occurs. Follow these key reminders and visit [www.nasponline.org/children-and-violence](http://www.nasponline.org/children-and-violence) to learn more.

## KEEP EXPLANATIONS DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE

### Early Elementary

Provide simple information and concrete examples balanced by assurance of safety.

### Upper Elementary and Early Middle School

Answer questions and assist in separating reality from fantasy.

### Upper Middle & High School

Emphasize students' role in safety & how to access support.

## REAFFIRM SAFETY

- Emphasize that schools are very safe.
- Let children speak about their feelings and validate reactions to the event.
- Support the appropriate expression of their feelings and help to put them in perspective.



## MAKE TIME TO TALK

- Let children's questions guide the information provided. Be patient and look for clues that a child wants to talk.
- Young children may need concrete activities (e.g., imaginative play) while some older children may prefer writing or playing music.



## REVIEW SAFETY PROCEDURES

- Help children identify an adult at school and in the community that they can go to if they feel threatened or at risk.
- Review procedures and safeguards in school and home settings.



## MONITOR EMOTIONAL STATE

- Some children will not express themselves verbally but changes in behavior, appetite, or sleep patterns can indicate anxiety or stress.
- Seek help from a mental health professional for those with more intense reactions that last more than 2 weeks.



## MAINTAIN A NORMAL ROUTINE

- Keep a regular schedule and healthy nutrition, sleep and exercise to promote physical and mental health.
- Encourage maintenance of school work and extracurricular activities but do not push children who seem overwhelmed.
- Limit exposure to images or graphic reference to the event (e.g., TV and social media)..

