



ERIN'S LAW

Tips for Parents

The State of Illinois passed Erin's Law, which requires that children in grades pre-kindergarten through high school are educated on the topics of child sexual abuse awareness and prevention. The purpose of this tip sheet is to provide additional tools for parents to follow-up with their children.

Helping your child process child sexual abuse education:

After your child has participated in sexual abuse awareness and prevention (through the use of books, videos, or discussion) in District 35, they may come home with many questions and feelings in response to the material. It is important that you help answer your child's questions and discuss their feelings as you see appropriate.

When speaking with your child, here are some points to consider:

- Ask your child about what they learned in the presentation. Talk with them about how it made them feel and what they thought. Remind your child that he or she can talk to you about anything, and that you will be there to support them, no matter the topic.
- Some children may feel worried or scared about the topic. Reassure them that they are greatly loved by so many people who want to help keep them safe. Take this opportunity to talk about the different types of relationships that they have with the people in their life. Identify the people in their inner circle of trust that they can go to with anything.
- Ask them to tell you about the **No, Go, Tell** rule. The **No, Go, Tell** rule teaches children to first say "no" in a clear and confident voice, leave the area for a safer one, and then tell a trusted adult. It's important to let children know that they can use this rule whenever they are in an uncomfortable situation, even if they are with a trusted adult.

How you can respond if your child reports abuse?

- If your child opens up to you about perceived abuse, stay calm and listen to the facts before you respond. Let them share their thoughts and feelings and be supportive. Imagine how hard it must be for your child to come to you with this information and the incredible bravery it takes to come forward.
- Show your support by letting them know how proud you are that they came to you and did the right thing. It is very important to let children know that they did nothing wrong and are not responsible for the abuse.
- If the abuse was recent, talk to your child's pediatrician immediately. The pediatrician can examine your child to ensure the quality of his or her health, and make reports to law enforcement officers as needed.
- It is also a good idea to contact our school social workers and a counselor/psychologist for your child and/or family.

Resources:

If you suspect a child to be a victim of sexual abuse, or you would like more information about prevention, please use the resources below.

American Academy of Pediatrics www.aap.org

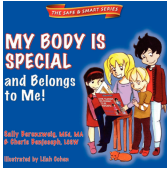
Illinois Department of Child and Family Services www.state.il.us/dcfs/
(DCFS) 1-800-252-2873

DCFS will help determine the response needed and will involve law enforcement when appropriate.

National Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)

This hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with professional crisis counselors. All calls are anonymous and confidential.

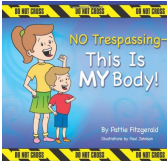
Books to use with your child:



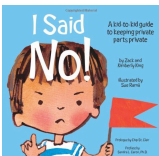
Berenzweig, S., & Benjoseph, C. (2011). *My Body Is Special And Belongs To Me!* San Bernadino, CA: Kids Safe Foundation, Inc.



Federico, J. K. (2008). *Some Parts Are Not For Sharing.* Mustang, OK: Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC.



Fitzgerald, P. (2011). *No Trespassing – This Is MY Body!* Santa Monica, CA: Safely Ever After Media.



King, Z., & King, K. (2013). *I Said No!: A Kid-To-Kid Guide To Keeping Private Stuff Private.* Weaverville, CA: Boulden Publishing.

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