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Health and Allied Services

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May 2021

Erin's Law



Erin's Law

ERIN'S LAW



Erin's Law is named for Erin Merryn, an abuse survivor and activist against child sexual abuse who has advocated for similar laws nationwide for over a decade.

In August 2019, New York State became the 37th state to sign Erin's Law into legislation. New York State's law ([Chapter 187 of the Laws of 2019](#)) – known as Erin's Law – **requires** public schools to teach child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention classes to students in grades K-8



ERIN'S LAW

Erin's Law is intended to help children, teachers, and parents in New York State schools **identify sexual abuse**, and to **provide awareness, assistance referral, or resource information** for children and families who are victims of sexual abuse.

ERIN'S LAW

NYSED Guidance Memo- Dated October 2020 -

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/erins-law-memo-commissioner.pdf>

Erin's Law FAQ -

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/erins-law-memo-commissioner.pdf>

ERIN'S LAW

In the Spring and Summer of 2020, The New York State Education Department worked with partners such as the Department of Health, the NYSED Offices of Student Support Services, Office of Children and Family Services, and the New York State Center for School Health to develop a website and resources.

<http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/erins-law>

ERIN'S LAW

The NYSED encourages local school districts to have advisory councils that include parents, school psychologists, school counselors, school social workers, school board members, school personnel, students, and community members to give recommendations in the development of the instruction designed to educate students, parents, teachers and other school personnel about the prevention of child abuse and child sexual exploitation.

Local school districts have the flexibility and responsibility to identify appropriate content and resources to implement instruction aligned to the benchmarks that were created.

Although curriculum remains a local decision in New York State, the resources provided on the website can serve as a foundation in curriculum development.

ERIN'S LAW OBJECTIVES

GRADE Banded K-Z

Students will be able to recognize healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Students will understand that abuse can occur in ANY relationship.

Students will understand that their body is theirs and it deserves respect as well as know if some parts of their body are private.

Students will be able to identify and define whether a touch is “comfortable” or “confusing.”

Students will be able to understand how to refuse uncomfortable touches.

Students will be able to comprehend “NO. Go and Tell.”

Students will know what keeps them safe when on the Internet: including not sharing personal information.

Students will be able to identify by name two trusted adults who can help with any issues or problems, or, identify a safe adult if lost, hurt, or in need of help.

Students will be able to identify the difference between a safe and unsafe secret, when there is an unsafe secret, they must tell a trusted adult

Students will be able to identify adults that they can trust and talk to about uncomfortable touch or unsafe secrets.

Students will be aware of unknown individuals who claim to know the child or his/her family.

Students will be able to understand that abuse, including exploitation and trafficking, is never the student's fault.

ERIN'S LAW OBJECTIVES

GRADE Banded 3-4

Students will be able to recognize healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Students will understand that abuse can occur in ANY relationship.

Students will be able to identify the bathing suit zone.

Students will have a deeper understanding of “comfortable”, “uncomfortable” or “confusing” touch.

Students will be able to use “NO. Go and Tell” to seek help from a trusted adult.

Students will know what keeps them safe when on the Internet; including not sharing personal information.

Students will be able to recognize that their body belongs to them and they have the right to say when and how someone else can touch it.

Students will be able to set personal boundaries and respect the personal boundaries of others.

Students will be able to identify and seek help if unhealthy and unsafe behaviors and situations occur, including bullying and abuse

Students will be able to quit or refuse to play games involving inappropriate touching.

Students will be able to understand that abuse, including exploitation and trafficking, is never the student's fault

ERIN'S LAW OBJECTIVES

GRADE Banded 5-6

Students will be able to recognize healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Students will understand that abuse can happen in ANY relationship.

Students will be able to describe and understand healthy and safe personal choices.

Students will be able to identify and seek help if unhealthy and unsafe behaviors and situations occur, including bullying and abuse.

Students will be able to identify safe adults that they can report to when confronted with potentially unhealthy or unsafe situations.

Students will be able to use “NO. Go and Tell” to seek help from a trusted adult.

Students will know what keeps them safe when on the Internet; including not sharing personal information.

Students will be able to refuse to go alone to meet online acquaintances/strangers

Students will understand the basic concept of manipulations and lures.

Students will be able to identify different ways that perpetrators might use “lures”.

Students will be able to understand that abuse, including exploitation and trafficking, is never the student's fault.

ERIN'S LAW OBJECTIVES

GRADE Banded 7-8

Students will be able to recognize healthy and unhealthy relationships, including romantic relationships.

Students will understand how to set personal boundaries and limits on relationships and honor the boundaries of others.

Students will understand that abuse can occur in **ANY** relationship and understand the various types of manipulations and lures.

Students will understand they can stand up for themselves and say “no” without feeling guilty.

Students will be able to help a friend who is in a potentially abusive situation find a trusted adult.

Students will be able to identify abuse that may occur in person and online: physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect.

Students will identify safe adults and peers or seek professional help such as help/abuse lines, counselors, etc.

Students will understand the risk caused by sending, requesting, and/or sharing inappropriate materials.

Students will be able to understand the importance of keeping personal information private while online.

Students will know what keeps them safe them on the Internet by refusing to post, send, or forward inappropriate images of self or others and know how to set privacy settings on social media

Students will understand that abuse, exploitation, and trafficking, is never the student's fault and help is available.

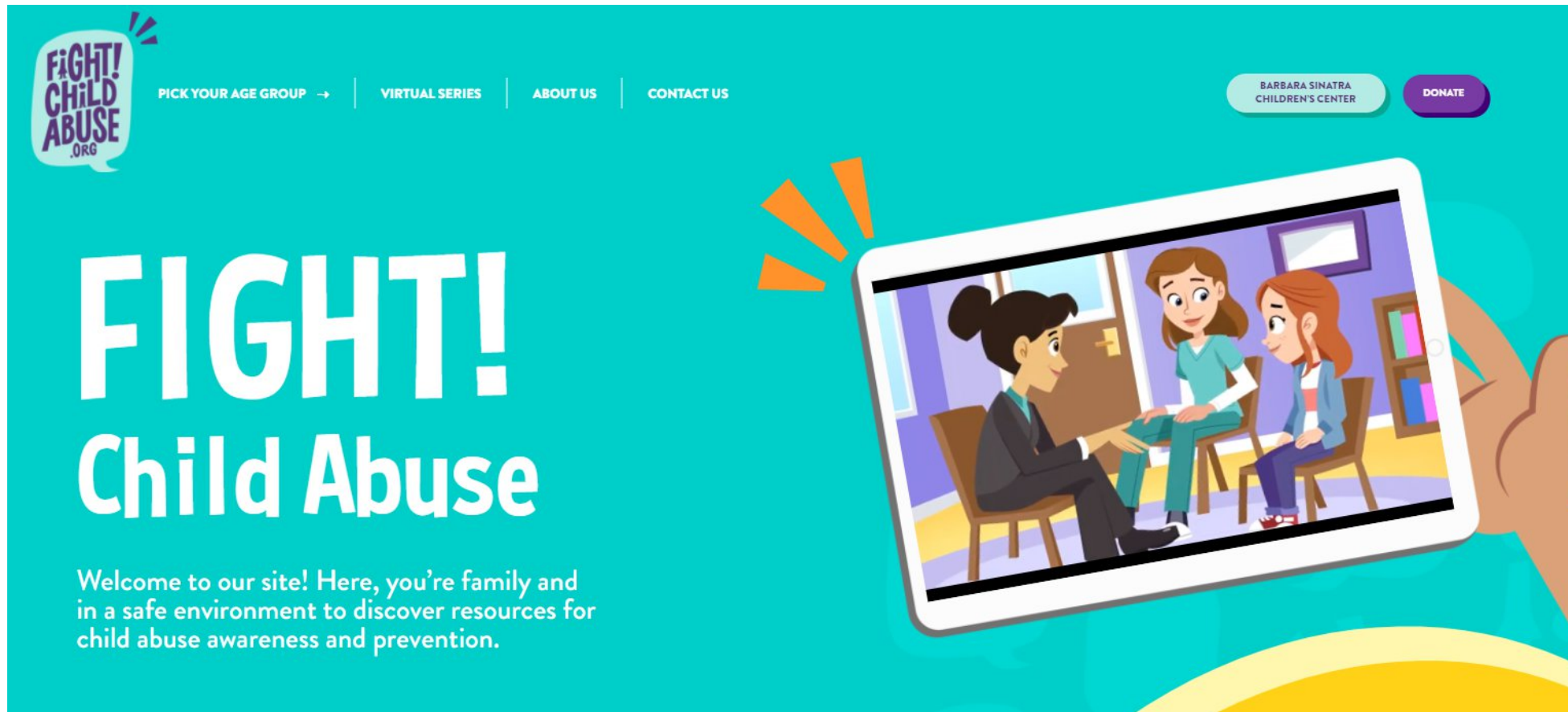
ERIN'S LAW SCHOOLS

RESOURCE GRID FOR

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/erins-law-resource-grid.pdf>

ERIN'S LAW RESOURCES							
Organization-Agency Source	Resource Title	Content Type	Date Published	Target Grades	Research or Evidence-Based	Cost	Notes
Tedi Bear Children Advocacy Center	My Body is Mine	Activity book with lesson plans that discuss good/bad touch		K-2	N/A	Free	With this book, children can learn safe boundaries, how to differentiate between "good" and "bad" touches, and how to respond appropriately to unwanted touches. It also contains a 'More Things that Parents Should Know'

ERIN'S LAW



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BARBARA SINATRA CHILDREN'S CENTER | DONATE

FIGHT! Child Abuse

Welcome to our site! Here, you're family and in a safe environment to discover resources for child abuse awareness and prevention.

ERIN'S LAW



[Relationship Skills](#) [Child Protection ▼](#) [Bullying Prevention ▼](#) [Abuse Prevention ▼](#) [Stranger Safety](#)

Former Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Orinda Union School District

Sexual Abuse Prevention

Kidpower's Comprehensive preK-12 Curriculum

Kidpower is a global nonprofit leader dedicated to providing empowering and effective sexual abuse and bullying prevention, child protection, and personal safety education for all ages, abilities, and walks of life.

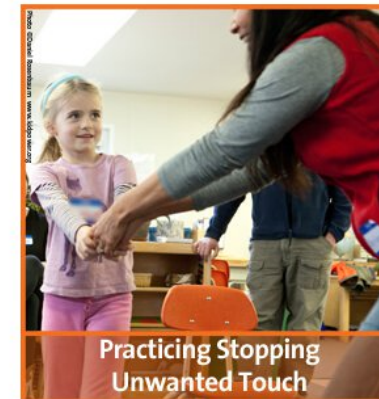
Since 1989, we have served over 5.4 million children, teens, and adults, including those with special needs, through our workshops, partnerships, and educational resources. In locations where we have instructors, we teach hands-on workshops for families, schools, and organizations. In addition, we provide training of professionals, parent/guardian workshops, and extensive curriculum. [Learn more about services we offer.](#)

We prepare responsible adults to introduce and teach Kidpower skills in ways that are effective, empowering, and FUN – and to coach the use of these skills in daily life. Just as crossing the street safely does not happen in one lesson, learning how to prevent and solve problems with people is not a one-time lesson, but an ongoing process. [Learn more about the skills we teach.](#)

Kidpower programs follow or exceed federal and state requirements and are recommended by [ErinsLaw.org](#)

[Learn more](#) about how Kidpower programs meet or exceed federal and state standards for child safety and abuse prevention education, such as "Erin's Law."

[Contact us](#) to tailor services to your needs.



ERIN'S LAW

[CERTIFICATION](#)[LESSON PLANS ▾](#)[CASE STUDIES](#)[ACTIVITIES ▾](#)[RESOURCES ▾](#)[ABOUT ▾](#)A black and white photograph showing the long shadows of people walking on a paved sidewalk, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Sex Trafficking Awareness For Individual Strength and Hope (STARFISH)

School Prevention Project

Interested in teaching about sex trafficking prevention in your classroom or school? We've created specific lesson plans for several areas of study, as well as ideas for class and school-wide awareness activities. Here's how to get started.

[Get Started →](#)

ERIN'S LAW

Parent Resources

Parents tend to talk to their children about strangers and staying away from people who they do not know, but some may not talk to their children about sexual abuse, feeling unsafe and/or what they should do in uncomfortable situations.

The NYSED has developed a resource grid that parents can easily access to help them better discuss some of these topics with their children, as well as gain a better understanding of what Erin's Law is and how it is intended to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

Link

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/erins-law-family-resources.pdf>

ERIN'S LAW



TEDI BEAR Children's Advocacy Center

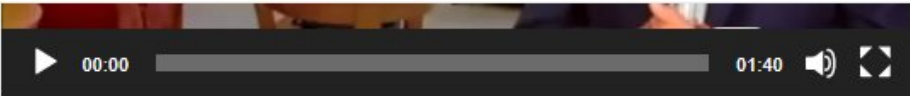
About Us ▾

Training & Tours

Resources

Types of Abuse

Give



5. TALK WITH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT BODY SAFETY.

Body safety is about more than avoiding cuts and bruises. Kids also need to learn how to stay safe from sexual abuse.

Children need to be told that no one is allowed to touch their private parts, except to help them stay clean or healthy.

They need to know that they should say NO!! if someone tries, and that they should tell their parents or other trusted adults right away.

some point. Do everything you can to keep your child safe!



ERIN'S LAW

FAQ – very helpful - <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/erins-law-faqs.pdf>



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

Erin's Law Frequently Asked Questions 2/18/21

- **What is Erin's Law and is it required in schools?**

Erin's Law is named for Erin Merryn, an abuse survivor and activist against child sexual abuse, who has advocated for similar laws nationwide for over a decade. Erin's Law is intended to help children, teachers, and parents in New York State schools identify sexual abuse, and to provide awareness, assistance, referral, or resource information for children and families who are victims of child sexual abuse. Erin's Law calls for the teaching of child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention to students in grades K-8.

In August 2019, the State Legislature proposed, and the Governor signed Erin's Law requiring the teaching of child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention to students in grades K-8 in all public schools.

ERIN'S LAW

Nassau BOCES will moderate a collaborative project to create age-appropriate units that cover mandates of Erin's Law.

Group will be moderated by Dr. Donna Bacon, Ph.D., LCSW, MSW. Dr. Bacon is the chair of the health studies department at Nassau Community College. Dr. Bacon is also a Certified Facilitator and Trainer for the Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect and School Violence and Intervention Workshop. Her expertise will be called upon to direct teachers to develop engaging, relevant and age appropriate units in sexual abuse and exploitation prevention education as required by Erin's Law.

If you are interested in working on this project this summer- [please fill out this application](#). All selected persons will be notified by of work schedule by May 30th . **Work to begin after July 1.**

Nassau BOCES Mental Health Consortium presents Erin Merryn