



Dear Parent or Guardian,

In the coming month, the Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade classrooms at Fort Edward Elementary will participate in **High Five!**, a unique, four-week program focusing on emotional, physical, and sexual abuse prevention.

Each day there will be a presentation on a different topic in your child's classroom. This program should be viewed as a part of your child's safety education, but you are your child's first and best teacher. After each lesson, we will give your child a take home packet. There will be an activity for you to complete together. We will also include a letter reviewing what we covered and what will be taught in the following lesson.

In our time with your child, we will cover some basic safety tips. However, each child lives in a different environment, and no one knows your child better than you. Therefore, it is important for you to follow up with your child about what they learned in school, and to apply the lessons to your own living situation. Below are the topics that will be covered in the classroom:

1. **Understanding Feelings:** It is important for your child to be able to identify what they are feeling (happy, sad, angry, scared, etc.) and know how to respond appropriately.
2. **Safety Around Strangers:** Our focus will be safety around strangers and will also include information on staying safe in public. Children should never talk to strangers, take things from strangers, or go places with strangers.
3. **Physical Safety:** Children often witness scary situations - in public and at home. We want to teach children two rules: (1) **Don't** get in the middle of a fight and (2) **Do** tell an adult if someone is getting hurt.
4. **Personal Body Safety:** In an age-appropriate way, we will teach your child that the private parts of the body are private and that no one should ever touch or see these parts of the body (unless it is to keep them clean and healthy). We will show the students a drawing of two children in their bathing suits at the beach. We refer to the private parts as those parts covered by your bathing suit.

The goal of this program is to prevent child abuse, but children will need all of us to work together to achieve this goal. **If you wish to learn more about the program, please reach out to me, Emily Koudelka – Outreach and Education Coordinator at the Warren-Washington C.A.R.E. Center.**

Our team is excited to work with the Fort Edward Elementary community to present this important safety information to our students. We look forward to working with you and your child over the coming weeks. Thank you for helping us demonstrate to children that they each deserve to feel secure, healthy, and protected by their safe adults.

Sincerely,
Emily Koudelka
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