

# The Kids on the Block Abuse Prevention Program

The Kids on the Block is an unforgettable, interactive program that has been educating children about child abuse and basic safety since 1987. Employing puppetry inspired by the Japanese Bun raku tradition, kid-sized characters share vital information about physical and sexual abuse and neglect in an age-appropriate context. Children learn to distinguish between abuse and discipline, and what they can do if someone is hurting them. Through the magic of theatre, we present this information in an entertaining and non-threatening way. Puppet characters share their own personal experiences and role play to illustrate sensitive issues and teach practical skills.

## Kids on the Block Abuse Prevention Program includes:

- ❖ Live puppet performance
- ❖ Interactive discussion between students and facilitator
- ❖ Comprehensive Teacher's Guide
- ❖ [www.preventchildabuse.ca](http://www.preventchildabuse.ca) website



*Stephen and Joanne discuss how they found helping adults they could tell.*

## Additional Services Available:

- ❖ Professional In-Service and Training: Identifying and Reporting Suspected Child Abuse for Professionals
- ❖ Parent Information Sessions
- ❖ Follow up visits from The Kids on the Block
- ❖ Community Presentations for professionals, parents and the general public

## Program Goals:

- ❖ Explain various types of child abuse and neglect
- ❖ Distinguish between child abuse and discipline and explain appropriate discipline
- ❖ Assist children in identifying helping adults they can tell if experiencing some form of abuse or neglect
- ❖ Assist teachers, parents and caregivers with knowledge and skills to discuss and monitor for the presence of child abuse on an ongoing basis
- ❖ Encourage alternatives to violent behaviour
- ❖ Reinforce the notion that child abuse is never the child's fault

**Suggested Age Range:** Grades 1-5\*      **Performance Running Time:** 45 minutes

(\*Note: Our Safety Program is also available for grades Jk-2)

## Child Abuse Prevention Characters are:

**Stephen Arthurs** was physically abused by his mom. By telling his teacher, he and his family were able to get help. Stephen now helps others and even set up a hotline where kids can call and ask questions.

**Joanne Spinoza** was sexually abused by her mom's boyfriend. She found the courage to tell and get help. Joanne and Stephen have become friends and confidants as a result of their shared experiences. Joanne is a vibrant, spirited teen with many goals and aspirations. *(Recommended for Grade 3+)*



*Nam Nguyen*

**Nam Nguyen** is a friend to Stephen and Joanne. Sometimes he gets confused about what child abuse is. Nam's hilarious antics add a touch of comic relief.

# About The Kids on the Block Bullying Program

The Kids on the Block Puppet Program has been providing public education to Windsor-Essex on the topics of safety and physical and sexual abuse since 1987. Responding to a strongly identified need for bullying education in our schools, we implemented the "Safe at School" bullying program in 2004.

## The Kids on the Block Bullying Program includes:

- ❖ Live puppet performance
- ❖ Interactive discussion between students and facilitator
- ❖ Comprehensive Teacher's Guide
- ❖ [www.preventchildabuse.ca](http://www.preventchildabuse.ca) website



## Additional Services Available:

- ❖ Presentations for Educators and Childcare Staff
- ❖ Parent Presentations (school or community setting)
- ❖ Interactive Workshops for Parents and Children

*Melody and Eddy discuss safe ways to help other children who are being bullied.*

## Program Goals:

- ❖ To define and explain what constitutes bullying behaviour
- ❖ To describe bullying in its various forms (i.e. physical, verbal and relational)
- ❖ To explain the various roles in a bullying situation (bully, bullied, bystander)
- ❖ To encourage children to talk about their feelings and respect the feelings of others
- ❖ To encourage children to be confident in their own sense of right and wrong
- ❖ To encourage alternatives to violent or bullying behaviour
- ❖ To inspire students, school administrators, teachers and parents to work together to create a safe, fair school environment for all children
- ❖ To support schools by reinforcing messages around bullying with consistency and clarity

**Suggested Age Range:** Grades 2-6      **Performance Running Time:** 35-40 minutes

## Safe at School Characters are:

**Eddy Franklin** – Eddy is a thoughtful 10-year old with a big problem. A boy at school is taunting him, taking his lunch money and threatening him. Through his experiences, children learn that it is common to feel afraid, alone and upset when confronted by a bully.

**Clare Sanchez** – Eddy's 14-year old friend Clare experienced a similar situation. She understands, first hand, how it feels to dread going to school. Through Clare, the audience learns about social bullying. Children can be inspired by this brave and bodacious teen who always finds a way to make a difference.



*Clare Sanchez*

**Melody James** - Melody is 11 years old and sensitive to the feelings of her peers. When her friends are facing challenges, she is quick to get involved and aid in resolving problems.

To book a performance contact Charlotte LeFrank, Public Education Coordinator

519-252-1171 ext 1802 ~ [clefrank@wecas.on.ca](mailto:clefrank@wecas.on.ca)

All Kids on the Block Programs are delivered **FREE OF CHARGE**

[www.preventchildabuse.ca](http://www.preventchildabuse.ca)



*Kids on the Block is a program of the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society and is funded by The Ministry of Children and Youth Services*