

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 in the Japanese Bun raku tradition, child-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 website

Additional Services Available:

- ❖ In-service in Identifying and Reporting Suspected Child Abuse for Professionals
- ❖ Parent Information Sessions (including Newcomer families)
- ❖ Follow up visits from The Kids on the Block



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

Program Goals:

- ❖ To explain and define various types of child abuse and neglect
- ❖ To distinguish between child abuse and discipline and explain appropriate discipline
- ❖ To assist children in identifying helping adults they can tell if they need assistance
- ❖ To assist educators in meeting objectives in the Health and Safety Curriculum
- ❖ To assist educators with knowledge/skills to monitor for the presence of abuse on an ongoing basis
- ❖ To support educators in discussing this sensitive topic and in answering questions that may arise

Kids on the Block Sample Half Day Schedule*:

Sample Option 1:

Grade JK/SK and 1 – 20 min
Grades 2 and 3 – 45 min
Recess or Nutrition Break
Grades 4 and 5 – 45 min

Sample Option 2:

Grade 2 and 3 – 45 min
Grades 4 and 5 – 45 min
Recess or Nutrition Break
Grades JK, SK and 1 – 20 min

Program Descriptions:

Safety Program OR My Body Belongs To Me/Learning About Privacy (NEW)

Suggested Age Range: JK, SK and Grade 1

Approx. Running Time: 20 Minutes

In the Safety Program students learn basic safety including 911, Strangers, Safe Places and the “No, Run, Tell” Technique. Our newest program “My Body/Privacy” was developed in response to requests for assistance in bringing abuse prevention messages to younger children. Provides basic information about privacy, respecting self and others, and ‘hands are not for hurting’ in simple language.

Introduction to Child Abuse

Suggested Age Range: Grades 2-3

Approx. Running Time: 45 Minutes

In this introductory program, students learn what child abuse is, what it is not, and what to do if it happens to them. Students learn to identify helping adults children can go to when they need help.

Abuse Prevention Program

Suggested Age Range: Grades 4-5

Approx. Running Time: 45 Minutes

Students get a more in depth look at child abuse. Includes a discussion of privacy and private parts, and how to identify helping adults that children can go to when they need help.

**Note: Schedule and content can be modified to suit the needs of the individual school.*



The Kids on the Block Abuse Prevention Program

Talking Points from the Child Abuse Prevention Program:

- ❖ We talk about child abuse not to scare kids, but to prepare them. Just like we practice fire safety in case of a fire, we discuss child abuse so that kids know what to do if it happens to them.
- ❖ Child abuse is different than discipline. We may not like some of the things our parents or caregivers do, but that does not mean that it is child abuse.
- ❖ A simple rule to remember about discipline is that it should not hurt. Being disciplined should never result in marks, bruises, injuries, or significant pain.
- ❖ Child abuse is never the child's fault.
- ❖ Just like kids are not allowed to hurt each other, (i.e. bullying) no one has a right to hurt a child, nor harm their body. This rule applies to grownups, teenagers, babysitters and to other kids.
- ❖ Most parents who do child abuse don't mean to hurt their children. But it is important that these parents get help and support so that they can stop.
- ❖ Being a parent is a very big job and sometimes parents need help and support with that job. There are lots of ways for parents to get help and support.
- ❖ All parents love their children, even parents who may have hurt their kids.
- ❖ Families who have experienced abuse may need extra help and support, but through their strength and resilience, puppet characters Joanne and Stephen demonstrate that kids who have experienced abuse can still grow up to be strong, healthy and happy.

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 understand what child abuse is and is not.

Joanne Spinoza was sexually abused by her mom's boyfriend who told her to keep it a secret. She found the courage to tell and get help. Joanne is a vibrant, spirited teen with many goals and aspirations.

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.



Nam Nguyen

Child Abuse Prevention Scripts*:

Open House - Nam has heard a rumour that the scars on Stephen's arm and face were caused by his mom, who hits him really hard. Nam confronts Stephen and learns that she used to hurt him but now she is trying to stop. The script dispels common myths about abusive parents, including the notion that abusive parents don't love their kids, and outlines the steps taken so Stephen's family could get help.

Hotline - Nam has learned a lot about child abuse, but he is still confused about what child abuse is. He is convinced that his parents are "abusing" him. Stephen helps Nam to understand what child abuse is and is not. Nam learns that he does not have child abuse. He also learns that it is okay to ask questions when he is not sure about something.

Learning How To Tell - As a reporter for the school newspaper, Nam asks Joanne to share her story. She explains that you must be sensitive when you talk to a kid about abuse, especially about sexual abuse. Joanne demonstrates how she persisted in finding someone to tell. She serves as a model for children who may have experienced abuse and are unsure about how to tell.

**Note: Not all scripts are performed at each show. Appropriate material is selected for each age group.*



To book a performance contact Charlotte LeFrank, Public Education Coordinator

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

www.preventchildabuse.ca

