

Why Do We Need An Abuse Prevention Program?

Consider The Facts:

- ❖ It is estimated that 1 in 10 children are being physically abused.
- ❖ 50% of girls and 33% of boys will be victims of some unwanted advance prior to their 18th birthday.
- ❖ Over 90% of child sexual offenders are people our children know and trust, NOT STRANGERS!
- ❖ Over 190 children will go missing in Canada each day. Approximately 40% are Internet related.
- ❖ One in four households experience domestic violence.

Just like we teach fire safety, we educate kids about child abuse and personal safety to prepare them, not to scare them. In actual fact a child is much more statistically likely to be exposed to some form of abuse than to a school fire.

What Does This Mean for Teachers?

- ❖ Throughout an average teaching career, teachers have the potential to come in contact with numerous students who are experiencing some form of abuse, neglect or may be witnessing domestic violence in their homes.
- ❖ Research tells us that students who are victims of neglect, abuse or maltreatment are more likely to have problems in school and are more likely to be the target of bullies or to be bullies themselves.
- ❖ Teachers may be the only professional adult that a child has regular contact with.
- ❖ The law states that if you have reasonable ground to suspect child abuse, you are required to report it. You don't have to investigate or verify the information; you just have to report it. No one can do it on your behalf. If you continue to have grounds to suspect that a child is in need of protection, keep reporting!

The Importance of Open Communication

- ❖ Child abuse (particularly sexual abuse) is difficult to talk about, so often it is not discussed. This climate of secrecy is the perfect breeding ground for abusers who rely on the subject never coming up. One study suggests that a sexual abuser assaults an average of 68 children before being arrested.
- ❖ Through the puppets, children can learn how to identify child abuse and how to get help. Children learn that child abuse is not their fault. They learn that adults who abuse need help and support to stop.
- ❖ By sharing personal experiences, the Kids on the Block enable children to learn and ask questions in a non-threatening environment. Children are better able to grasp concepts through the use of realistic scenarios.
- ❖ Children learn that there is no need to be ashamed if child abuse has happened to them. Stephen and Joanne are living proof that kids who have experienced child abuse can be normal, healthy, and happy.
- ❖ Through the puppet's courage and candor, kids learn that sometimes the most difficult things to talk about are the most important.



Talking about child abuse is hard. We're here to help.



Kids on the Block is a Program of the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society
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To book a free presentation, call (519) 252-1171 x 1802 or visit

www.preventchildabuse.ca

