

Parents Can Help Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

Knowledge about sexual abuse helps protect children.
Lack of knowledge leaves children vulnerable.

Why are PARENTS the right people to teach their children about sexual abuse?

PARENTS:

- Influence children's **KNOWLEDGE** and **VALUES**
- **TEACH** children the facts
- Have more influence on children's decisions about sex than their friends



How to talk to children about sexual abuse:

- Start at an **EARLY AGE**
- Keep discussions **DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE**, with an awareness of normal behaviors
- **REPEAT** the message
- Promote **HEALTHY SEXUALITY** by teaching respect and value of body and gender
- Teach **CORRECT NAMES FOR BODY PARTS**, to reduce children's vulnerability
- Establish **PRIVACY RULES** in the home and away from home
- Talk about **SECRETS/TRICKS/THREATS** that a perpetrator may use to keep children from telling
- Educate children on **VULNERABLE SITUATIONS**, including social media and activities
- Educate children **BEYOND "STRANGER DANGER."** Approximately 90% of sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone the child knows
- Give children **PERMISSION** to tell you about anything happening to them



What do you do if a child discloses sexual abuse?

- Stay **CALM** and **LISTEN** to the child
- Tell the child you **BELIEVE** him/her and are glad they told you
- Tell the child that what happened is **NOT THEIR FAULT**
- **REPORT THE DISCLOSURE** to professionals for investigation and help
- **DO NOT ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS. DO NOT CONDUCT YOUR OWN INVESTIGATION**