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November 2012

Stewards of Children® Participants...Never Stop Learning!

You are receiving this email because you have attended a Stewards of Children training. We want to continue to provide helpful information, tips, stories in the news, trainings, and other valuable resources to help expand your awareness and strengthen your role as a steward of children. Without ongoing education and dialogue in our community, it is impossible to move forward and end this epidemic.

At the November community training, a participant made the excellent point that although we discuss the importance of setting policies and procedures for youth-serving organizations, it is just as important to do the same within your family.

We want this article to help empower you to create a plan for your family so your children, spouse, siblings, parents, cousins, etc. can know what the expectations are when protecting your children from sexual abuse.

Educate Family Members

- Start having conversations with all family members about appropriate and inappropriate behaviors.
- Teach children the proper names for body parts.
- Make sure children know that no one has the right to touch them for no good reason or to play a game on a private part of their body or make them touch him/her.
- Teach children to tell you *immediately* if someone tries to touch them for no good reason or to play a game.
- Teach your family that sexual abuse can occur in many different forms and not just touches to the private parts of their bodies (kissing, exposure to pornography, communicating in a sexual manner through the Internet or phone, etc).
- Learn to recognize warning signs, and learn what to do if you have suspicions or if a child discloses abuse.
- Let these conversations be ongoing and not just a one-time event.

Set Clear Family Boundaries

- Demonstrate boundaries by showing children in your own life how to say "no." Teach your children that their "no" will be respected, whether it's in playing or tickling or hugging or kissing.
- If a child does not want to hug or kiss someone hello or goodbye, that should be ok. And make sure, too, that other family members understand why this is important for the safety of the child.
- Let children know that if they are not comfortable being around a particular adult or older child, then they don't have to be around that person.
- As a child matures, boundaries may need to change.
 - *Knock on the door before entering the room, sleeping arrangements, etc.*
- Let family members know that secrets are not allowed. Both the adults and children in your life need to know how secrets may make kids unsafe. Secrets exclude others, often because the information will create anger. When keeping secrets with just one person becomes routine, children are more vulnerable to abuse.

Sources: Darkness2Light.org and Stopitnow.org

Stay Tuned for the 2013 Stewards of Children Training Schedule....



About Chaucie's Place

Chaucie's Place works passionately to ensure the welfare of children by offering evidence-based, high-quality prevention programs to end the cycle of abuse and to empower children and adults to take an active role to make sure that children of central Indiana have the opportunity to live to their highest potential.

The center provides a neutral, child-focused environment where forensic interviews may take place for cases of alleged child sexual and physical abuse and neglect to help reduce trauma for child victims.

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