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June 2012

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

You are receiving these emails 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.

One of the best ways to protect our children is to use a situation, like the Jerry Sandusky trial, as a teaching moment. This month we wanted to share an article from TIME magazine responding to former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky being found guilty of 45 of 48 counts of sexually abusing children. We hope that you will find this article empowering and take the opportunity to talk to the children in your lives about child sexual abuse.

After the Jerry Sandusky Verdict: Lessons for Parents

This article outlines six lessons for parents to learn after the Jerry Sandusky trial. It is essential that we, as adults, take an active role in protecting our children by having actions that match our intentions so children can live their lives to their highest potential.

- **Lesson #1:** One not-so-obvious insight? Don't tell secrets. "Children are taught very early to keep secrets," says Block. "It's a game. When children are being molested, the perpetrator tells them, 'This is a secret. Don't tell anybody.'" So we encourage parents to not include kids in secrets. Talk instead in terms of surprises."
- **Lesson #2:** Be leery of any adult who is smitten with your child. Child molesters are savvy; they often prey on vulnerable kids - poor children, or those whose parents aren't often around. Lauren's Kids - an organization started by Lauren Book, who was sexually abused for six years by her nanny - shared this explanation of how predators work, written by one of Book's parents:

As a parent who has gone through the aftermath of sexual abuse and studied a lot about pedophile tactics, the allegations against Jerry Sandusky are a classic case of child sexual predator and pedophile grooming. The prosecution has done well in explaining the consistent and predictable grooming process that Jerry Sandusky employed - from building trust with his victims, to currying favor and control by buying them gifts and giving them access to the Penn State football program, and then forcing them to participate in sex acts and then remain quiet about it.

Jerry Sandusky groomed his victims so well that some of them have kept in touch with him as recently as two years ago. Many from the defense are asking why would they, in fact, do such a thing if it were true that Jerry Sandusky had sexually abused them. But that is how predators work. They manipulate children and control them by bribing, brainwashing, threatening, controlling and embarrassing them.

- **Lesson #3:** Perhaps most important is simply paying attention to your kids'

rhythms and learning to recognize potential signs of abuse: changes in mood, behavior or school performance and reluctance to participate in activities.

- **Lesson #4:** It's never too early to start teaching your kids about what kinds of touches are appropriate. In their testimony, Sandusky's victims shared his introductory technique: a seemingly friendly hand on the thigh, placed there to gauge the child's level of discomfort. Talking about touch can begin with toddlers in the bath. As you soap them up, explain that parents can touch their kids' private parts to help them get clean, but no one other than doctors should be doing that. "The best pediatricians explain they're going to touch them to make sure the child's body is healthy, but if someone else does that, it's not O.K.," says Victor Vieth, executive director of the National Child Protection Training Center, which educates child-protection professionals.
- **Lesson #5:** Keep the conversation going as kids become teens. It's a mistake to assume that most children will readily tell a grownup they've been sexually assaulted. "Imagine the most positive sexual experience of your life - would you want to tell your parents?" says Vieth. "Now imagine you're a little boy or a girl who had a horrible sexual experience, often at the hands of someone you know and trust. Children have such conflicted feelings about the perpetrator."
- **Lesson #6:** Listen when kids talk. One of Sandusky's victims said he'd told guidance counselors that he'd been abused but he wasn't believed. "They said, 'He [Sandusky] has a heart of gold. He wouldn't do something like that,'" the teen testified, choking back tears. "They didn't believe me."

View the full article [here](#).

Please share this with your friends, family, and colleagues.

Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training for Adults

August 13, 2012

5:30pm - 8:00pm

St. Vincent Carmel Hospital
13450 N. Meridian, Suite 255
Carmel, IN 46032

\$15.00 per person to attend
SPACE IS LIMITED!

No Refunds will be given.
Register at www.chauciesplace.org

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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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