

Erin's Law Presentation

Addison School District #4

Erin's Law Requirement

- Named after Erin Merryn ; law passed to ANNUALLY educate parents and ALL school personnel and students on how to prevent and/or react to Child Sexual Assault/Abuse.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcISu0q4qUA>
- Congress
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqipMoFvSLM>

District 4 Process

- All staff received training regarding child sexual abuse, signs, symptoms and interventions by October 1st.
- Social workers and psychologists will present to students from January until June 2019.
- Lessons and presentations will be age-appropriate.

Why are we talking about it?

Statistics

- 3 million kids were abused ; 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys
- 93% of kids were abused by people they know
- Feb 2011: Erin Merryn put together a task force to teach students about sexual abuse
- Jan 2013: K-12 training mandated in Illinois
- 28 states have passed similar requirements
- Dec 2015: Illinois will provide additional funding for training starting 2017-2018

Statistics

- **Less than 10%** of child sexual abuse is reported
- Children fabricate sexual abuse **less than 1%** of the time
- Estimated **60 million survivors** of childhood sexual abuse

Child Sexual Abuse

- The sexual exploitation or victimization of a child by an adult or older child
- Examples
 - Abuser touches the child
 - Forcing a child to watch pornography
 - Child is forced to touch the abuser
 - Exposing oneself to a child
 - Performing sexual acts on or with a child

Perpetrators

- Anyone can be a perpetrator
 - Female
 - Male
- Fathers, step-fathers, and father figures most common
 - Girls in homes with mom's live-in boyfriend or male family friend are most at risk
- Stranger Danger is not the greatest risk

Effects of Child Sexual Abuse

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Low self-esteem
- Difficulty trusting others
- Shame
- Poor school performance
- Re-victimization
- Unhealthy Relationships
- Self-harm
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide
- Guilt/ Self-Blame
- Mental Health problems
- Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse

- Change in habits
- Knowledge of sex
- Excessive sexual play
- Change in personality
- Change in academic behaviors
- Regression
- Pain or injury to the genitals or anal
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Unexplained physical ailments
- Pregnancy

Information obtained from the YWCA presentation

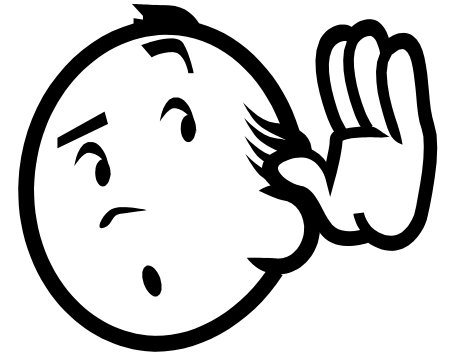


As parents, teachers, therapists,
and staff working with children in
the schools, YOU are OUR first line
of defense.

As a Parent, What do you do when a child discloses?

General Dos

- Actively listen
- Validate feelings
- Stay calm and collected
- Respect confidentiality
- Report it right away: Don't investigate yourself.
 - Call DCFS if abuser is a caregiver
 - Call the Police if abuser is any other individual
 - Call the YWCA Rape Crisis number to come up with an action plan.



DON'TS

- Do not promise you won't tell
- Do not react in disgust or shock
- Do not dig for more information; allow child to share what is comfortable for them
- Do not tell them they are making up information or lying

During and After Disclosure

During

- Reassure child that you believe them
- Let them know there are people who can help
- Listen

After

- Keep regular routine as much as possible
- Do not question about abuse
- Don't discuss abuse with others in child's presence
- Acknowledge feelings

What can parents do?

- Talk to your children about touching, secrets, private parts, etc.
- Empower children to say “No,” even to non-sexual touches that they do not want
- Get to know adults who supervise your child’s activities
- Monitor use of technology
- Listen to your children and be available if your child wants to talk about an issue
- Trust your instincts

Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's school.

- Schools
 - AELC: 630-458-3095
 - Ardmore: 630-458-2900
 - Army Trail: 630-458-2502
 - Fullerton: 630-458-2950
 - Indian Trail: 630-458-2600
 - Lake Park: 630-458-3010
 - Lincoln: 630-458-3040
 - Stone: 630-628-4020
 - Wesley: 630-628-4060

Resources

- DCFS
 - 1-800-25-ABUSE
- YWCA Patterson and McDaniel Family Center
 - Rape Crisis Line: 630-971-3927
- DuPage County Crisis Line
 - 630-627-1700
- Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault
 - 24 Hour Confidential Hotline: (888) 802-8890
- National Child Abuse Hotline
 - 1-800-422-4453
 - www.childhelp.org