

WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

Child sexual abuse happens when a child is tricked, forced or manipulated into sexual contact. This includes phone and internet contact with obscene/sexual content, fondling, intercourse, oral/genital contact, prostitution and pornography.

WHAT IS CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING?

Child sex trafficking is one of the most common types of commercial sexual exploitation of children and is a high priority at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

Keeping your kids safe:

- Open, non-judgmental communication at home
- Know who your children are spending time with and where, including any adults they may come into contact with at friends' homes
- Monitor, know and discuss what your children are doing, where are they going and who are they talking to online
- If something doesn't seem right, ask questions and get help



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CHILD ABUSE



SYMPTOMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Physical

- Discomfort or pain in genital area
- Urinary infections
- Vaginal, rectal, penile discharge or bleeding
- Unusual/offensive odors

Emotional

- Significant personality change
- Anger, hostility, aggressiveness
- Depression, crying episodes
- Suicidal, talks of death and dying

Behavioral

- Unusual interest in (or fear of) all things of a sexual nature
- Seductive or promiscuous behavior
- Sexual acting out
- Change in eating or sleeping habits
- Change in school performance/behavior

PREVENTION

Education is the best way to prevent your child from becoming a victim. Teaching your child not to “talk to strangers” is simply not adequate. Most children are molested by someone known to them and children are susceptible to clever lures developed by intelligent offenders who understand a child’s thinking.

Children should be educated to recognize these lures:

- The offering of gifts, candy, money, bribes
- Appealing to the child’s sense of helpfulness such as asking for assistance in finding a lost dog
- Offering a ride on a motorcycle, or sports car
- Telling them that their parents sent them to pick them up
- Telling them their parents were hurt in an accident and the hospital sent them to pick them up

Parents should also teach their children about their bodies and about appropriate and inappropriate touching:

1. Teach your child that his/her body belongs to them and they have the right to say, “No” to anyone who touches them.
2. Tell your child that you want them to come to you if anything happens that makes them feel uncomfortable and that you won’t be angry no matter what happened (even if they got into trouble because they broke a rule).
3. Do not teach your child blind obedience to adults - teacher, babysitter, etc., if they ask them to do something they know or think is wrong.
4. Teach your child the correct names of their body parts and that they don’t have to be embarrassed to talk to you about their private areas.

