

Child Abuse – Back To Basics:

Will **Your** Child Become The Next Front Page Headline?

If **one in three** children is sexually victimized will all the children you know escape?

It was once believed that the stereotypical pedophile and abuser was a raincoat clad "dirty old man" lurking near the neighborhood primary school. As awareness has grown, the facts have revealed that a pedophile can come from any walk of life, any economical background, religion or race. A pedophile could be as close as the guy next door or the "grandfatherly" man down the street – there is no longer a stereotypical type.

89% of abused children are abused by someone they KNOW!

Sexual predators prey on the innocence of children. They feed on the thrill of violating trust. Their aim is to find the perfect "game" and capture their victim. They are child orientated, to the point of obsession. Such deviates spend their time watching children, talking to them and evaluating their mind frame. Child predators dig deep into the psyche of a child. They watch their every move and observe their feelings. As they see each mood, they watch for what activates the change and use it to play upon children's emotions.

They play the game slowly. They are masters of patience. They befriend the child, play with them and get to know them. They see their chance to advance the "game" and they take each calculated move as it comes. Each step is carefully planned to draw the child closer to them. They gain trust, reinforce it then eventually violate it.

A child's mind doesn't travel in the direction that a predators does. They look at the world differently than an adult. They only see a new friend, who understands them and likes to be with them. That's why deviants find ways to enter into a relationship with a child and then lure them into their trap.

What You Can Do To Attempt To Protect Your Child From Child Predators & Pedophiles.

Wo+men Against Child Abuse ask you to make time and talk to your children and tell them that such people exist. Education should begin with children as young as three or four. Teach them their body is special. Teach them that all areas of the body covered by a swimming costume (for example) are private. Teach them they must never allow anyone to touch their body.

Teach them not to undress in front of anyone once they are old enough to undress themselves. Teach them to tell a parent immediately if someone asks them to undress, tries to undress them, touches them or tries to touch their private parts.

Make sure your child gets plenty of positive attention at home. Victims are often children who feel lonely and lacking attention and support. Spend time with your child. Talk to them. Play with them. Make the most of the time you spend with them. Get to know your child's personality traits, and their mood swings. You'll be surprised at what you will learn from them.

Teach them not to give out any personal information if someone they don't know asks them for it. This is a difficult thing for children to understand. They have hopefully been taught to learn these details and give them to the police when lost or to teachers. Try to help them understand which types of circumstances they can give out information and which they shouldn't. Praise them when they get it right and explain again why they should or shouldn't if they answered incorrectly.

As parents, the best thing you can do is to educate your children about the world they live in. Not everyone is good and not everyone is bad. The bad however does exist and children need to know that. A child won't be frightened if the subject is approached as a fact of life. Education is the key for all of us and children are eager to learn.

When it comes down to what you should teach your child and what you believe your child should know we realize everyone's views will differ. HOWEVER, please keep in mind that the more information and understanding a child has, the better kind of judgments they can make. We would all like to believe that our children will use their own instincts, however, a child does not think that anything bad will happen to them. This is their innocence. It is your duty as parents to be sure they understand the severity of this problem and that they be educated and aware WITHOUT SCARING THEM. It can be done. It must be done. After all it's your child's life we are talking about here!

The most important thing **Wo+men Against Child Abuse** can say to parents these days is that the world is not the same as it was when you were growing up. We all have to be careful these days. Violence is more prevalent. The risks are much greater. Take the time to be sure your child is safe. Make your children's safety a priority.

Some Safety Tips.

- Parents can help protect their children by teaching them awareness of dangerous people and the lures used to entice children. Children should be AWARE not AFRAID of the dangers.
- Set aside time to talk to your children about dangerous people and strangers. Gear the talk to your child's level of understanding. Be straightforward, without frightening the child.

- Predators usually select a child they think will be an easy target. They look for children who walk alone, take short cuts, or seem to be alienated from other children. Quite often they watch playgrounds and observe children's play habits.
- Be cautious when you select someone to care for your children. Meet them and check their references.
- Teach your children their full names, telephone numbers and physical address. They should know how to make calls to the police or other care professionals, i.e. Childline.
- Never leave children unattended in public places, car or shopping centres. Be sure your children know what to do if you are separated while shopping.
- Explain who a stranger is. Children should never enter a stranger's home, get into their car, or take gifts from them. Explain when a child has a right to say NO to an adult.
- Be aware of anyone who pays an unusual amount of attention to your children.
- **Listen to your children if they don't want to be left alone with someone.**
- Ask your children to tell you about anyone who asks them to keep a secret.
- Encourage your children to use a buddy system. Advise them what to do if a stranger follows or approaches them.
- Get to know your neighbors and establish "safe homes" where children can go for help.

Your commitment may save a child's life – your complacency may cause death.

**Wo+men Against Child Abuse - Fighting For Their Rights.
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