



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM ABUSE

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN OFTEN

Teach your children about their bodies, including the correct names for their body parts.

Help them understand personal boundaries. Explain private areas as those covered by a bathing suit that **NO ONE** has the right to look at, or touch without their permission. Use examples.

Talk about touches: good touches, hurtful touches, and uncomfortable or confusing touches.

Ask them if anyone has ever said or done something that has made them feel uncomfortable.

Explain, they have your permission to say "NO" to an unwanted touch. They have the right to refuse a hug or to sit on someone's lap.

Explain the difference between secrets and surprises. Secrets can lead to trouble, and we shouldn't keep secrets from one another.

It's never too early to talk about sensitive subjects. It's better for them to hear it from you than on the playground.

Be a safe place for your child to share information or ask questions about things that may make them feel uncomfortable. Reassure them that they will not get in trouble.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

Are all of the activities/programs open to observation by caregivers?

Are your staff/volunteers trained in child abuse prevention and reporting?

Do you check personal *and* professional references?

Do you perform criminal background checks?

What is your policy regarding isolated, one on one interactions?

HAVE A PLAN

Teach your children what to do if you become separated from each other when away from home.

Identify five adults whom you both trust.

Make sure your children know their full name and your full name.

Children under eight years of age should have direct supervision while using computers, smart phones, or other devices.

Know what games, apps, and learning tools have communication capabilities.

Talk frankly about inappropriate content and how they should respond.

Set time limitations and boundaries for all devices.

FOR MORE SAFETY TIPS
visit caccollincounty.org/resources

It's the law to report suspected abuse
1-800-252-5400 or 9-1-1