

Community Response

I am so glad this information is available to all school children in Fairfield County. As someone who works with abused and neglected children every day, I realize how important it is to educate and empower all our children. This program can help to stop the hurt before it starts.

Rich Bowlen

*Director, Fairfield County
Child Protective Services*

...thank you for making our first grade safety day a success. The staff and students found your presentation entertaining and educational.

Kristi Motsch

*Principal
Violet Elementary School*

...children really find the information good and useful and they do remember what they are taught. I know that schools will benefit greatly from this program.

Helen Nemeth

*Program Coordinator,
Family Based Therapy Program,
New Horizons Youth and Family Center*



CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
of Fairfield County

Safety Programs
For Elementary and
Middle School Students

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Child Advocacy Center of Fairfield County

The vision of the Child Advocacy Center of Fairfield County is for children and families to live in a safe and nurturing community, free from sexual and physical abuse.

The mission of the Child Advocacy Center is to ensure justice and healing for Fairfield County children subjected to sexual and severe physical abuse by rendering child friendly, family-centered, victim sensitive services through a multidisciplinary team.

Child Advocacy Center of Fairfield County is an Associate Member of the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Center and the National Children's Alliance.

Child Advocacy Center of Fairfield County Partners with These Agencies

- ◆ Fairfield County Job & Family Services
- ◆ Fairfield County Prosecutor's Office
- ◆ Fairfield County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Fairfield County Developmental Disabilities
- ◆ Fairfield Medical Center
- ◆ Fairfield County Foundation and the Nannie B. Martens Fund
- ◆ Fairfield County Family Adult and child First Counsel
- ◆ United Way of Fairfield County
- ◆ Abuse Prevention Fund
- ◆ City of Lancaster Law Directors Office
- ◆ City of Lancaster Police Department
- ◆ City of Pickerington Police Department
- ◆ City of Baltimore Police Department
- ◆ Light House
- ◆ Mid Ohio Psychological Services
- ◆ New Horizons for Youth and Families
- ◆ Child Abduction Response Team
- ◆ Sexual Assault Response Team
- ◆ Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

Programs for Professionals and Parents

We can provide in service training for teachers, administrators, aides, bus drivers, cafeteria and playground staff, as well as parent groups.

All of our staff are authorized facilitators of the Stewards of Children curriculum, the only evidence based program for adults dealing with child sexual abuse prevention.

**ALL PROGRAMS
FOR STUDENTS
AND ADULTS
ARE PROVIDED
FREE OF CHARGE**

Protecting Children A Job for the Whole Community

Children's Advocacy Centers are community partnerships that use a facility based, multidisciplinary approach to address the problem of child abuse. Professionals from the fields of law enforcement, children's services, victim services, mental health, prosecution and medicine come together to investigate, treat, and prosecute cases of child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.

These institutions work cooperatively to ensure that children are no further victimized by the very systems intended to protect them, securing comprehensive and coordinated services for child victims and their families.

We are fortunate in our community to have all of these organizations, along with our schools and civic leaders, working together to protect the children of Fairfield County.

Why is it important to teach safety?

Child Sexual Abuse is serious problem that effects every community. Research shows that **1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexual abused before their 18th birthday.** And stranger danger accounts for less than 10% of all child sexual abuse. Most cases involved offenders who are known and trusted by the child and their family.

Over 180 reports of child sexual abuse were made in Fairfield County in 2008, and it is estimated that **88%** of child sexual abuse is **never reported.** This means there are likely more that 1200 cases that go unreported every year in our community.

In the average 8th grade classroom with 30 students, there are 4 girls and 2 boys who have been sexually abused and also 1 child who has abused a younger or more vulnerable child.

Additionally, 1 in 5 children who use the internet are sexually solicited online.

Bullying Prevention

First Grade

“Friends and Feelings”

45-60 minutes

Classroom presentation or grade level assembly

Third Grade

“Lend a Hand”

45-60 minutes

Classroom presentation or grade level assembly

Fifth Grade

“Stand Up”

1 hour grade level assembly

Seventh Grade

“Hero”

1 hour grade level assembly

These programs are new for 2009-2010.

Internet Safety

Sixth Grade

“Be Safe Online”

Seventh Grade

“Cyber Bullying”

Eight Grade

“Interactive Internet”

One hour sessions

Presented as a grade level assembly

Retrospective survey at the end

Presented in conjunction with
Baltimore Chief of Police Mike Tussey
an experienced cyber crimes investigator and
Commander of the Fairfield County
Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

What is Personal Body Safety?

We teach a few simple ideas, in simple language: a child’s body is her or her own; a child can say no to being touched “*NO*”; the parts of a child’s body covered by a bathing suit are private and not to be touched by others exception of certain circumstances; if they are touched they can “*GO*” and the can “*TELL*” a trusted adult if anyone touched them in a way that is uncomfortable or unwelcome. Keeping this message simple is important for young children.

“*NO*” “*GO*”
“*TELL*”

Because it is possible for child victims to be in our audience, we also reinforce the basic truth that

abuse is **NEVER the child’s fault.**

Common Questions

Is this a sex education class?

NO! It is important to emphasize that this is not a sex education class. It is designed to teach children the skills necessary to keep their body safe. Children are taught not to play with matches, to buckle up in the car, to look both ways before crossing the street, and to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. This is another way to protect children from harm.

Do you use appropriate language?

YES! Our program is a safety program. Private parts are parts of the body covered by a bathing suit. We do not use any slang words or

Personal Body Safety

All personal body safety classes can be taught in individual classrooms or as grade level assemblies.

In the 2nd through 5th grade brief pre and post tests are administered to evaluate the knowledge gained.

All sessions emphasize the fact that abuse is NEVER a child's fault.

Kindergarten: "Your Body Belongs to You"

20-30 minutes

- Learn about safe and unsafe touches
- Introduce "NO" "GO" & "TELL"

First Grade: "Ask First"

45-60 minutes

- Learn the "Ask Rule"
- Educates about physical abuse

Second Grade: "Safe People"

45-60 minutes

- Learn about people who are safe to talk with
- Difference between Tattling and Telling

Personal Body Safety

Third Grade: "Secrets"

45-60 minutes

- Explains why not to keep secrets about touches
- Reinforces prior levels

Fourth Grade: "Time to Tell"

45-60 minutes

- Includes video from Empower Kids
- Encourages children to support peers

Fifth Grade: "Trust"

45-60 minutes

- Teaches about the prevalence of abuse
- Learn about how abusers trick children

Health Fairs and Safety Days

We are able to modify content of all programs to do brief presentations or displays as part of Health Fairs and Safety Days.