
Erin's Law

EC/Elementary Information

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Objectives

- Overview of Erin's Law
- District 25 Curriculum Overview
- What should parents know and what can parents do?
- Questions

Erin's Law

- Public Act 097-1147
- Signed into law by Governor Quinn January 24, 2013
- Erin Merryn lobbied for the law
- As of 2015, enacted in 26 states, proposed/pending in 12 states¹
- Schools must educate students in preschool through 12th grade on a yearly basis
- Parents have the right to opt out
- Erin tells us: We prepare kids for fires, tornadoes, bus accidents and avoiding strangers, but not from abuse from someone who knows them.

Why is this necessary?

- The CDC estimates that one in four girls and one in six boys will be victims of sexual abuse or assault by age 18²
- 93% of juveniles know their attacker³
- 35% of victims in 2012 were between the ages of 12-17, 34% below the age of 9^{2, 3}
- Approximately 30% of cases are reported to the authorities²
- An estimated 60% of abusers are individuals known to the child, but are not family members²

District 25 Process

- District 25 partnered with the Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault
- NWCASA educator met with District social workers in December 2014
 - Provided information on sexual abuse
 - Trained staff to implement curriculum created by NWCASA and currently being implemented in other local districts
- Social workers continued to meet in small groups to review and refine curriculum
- Parent information nights held in spring of 2015, fall/winter 2015
- Curriculum implemented during the 2015-16 school year
- Curriculum reviewed by representative from Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center
- Social workers reviewed after 15-16 implementation

District 25 Process

- District staff participate in on-line training about sexual harassment and reporting, yearly
- District social workers provide yearly in-person presentations to district staff on abuse, mandated reporting, and Erin's Law
- District social workers will present lessons to each grade level with classroom teachers

Early Childhood through 5th Grade

- Social workers will present to students with classroom teachers present
- Each class will receive a presentation between January and February
- Students in 2nd-5th grade will be offered an exit slip to complete if they want to speak to a trusted adult after the presentation
- Letters will go home following the lesson with information about what was presented and how to reinforce the concepts at home

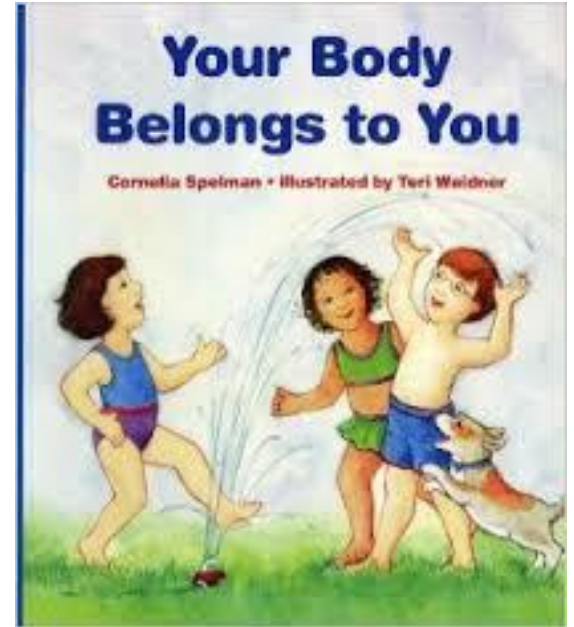
Early Childhood

- Focus: Basic Body Awareness/Safety
 - The Touching rule
 - Bathing Suit rule
 - How to say “No!”
 - Identifying a trusted adult
- Activities:
 - Read: “Some Parts are Not for Sharing”
 - Watch: Joey Learns the Touching Rule
 - Discussion of the rules from video



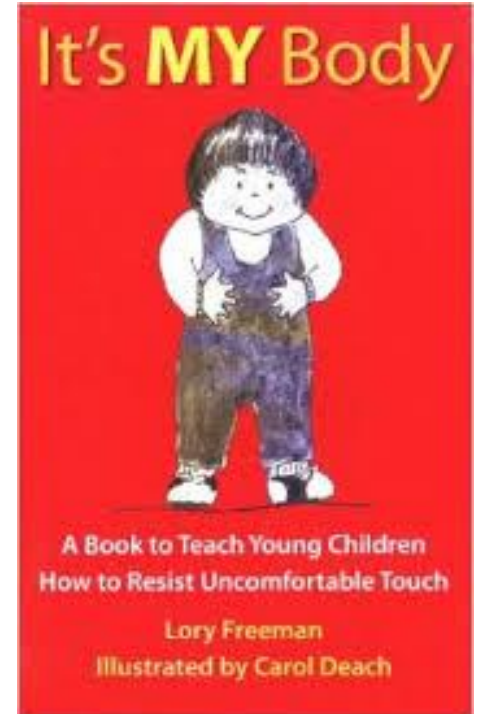
Kindergarten

- Focus: Body Ownership and Control
 - The Touching Rule
 - Bathing Suit concept
 - How to say “No”
 - Telling an adult
- Activities:
 - Read: “Your Body Belongs to You”
 - Watch: Joey Learns the Touching Rule
 - Discussion questions



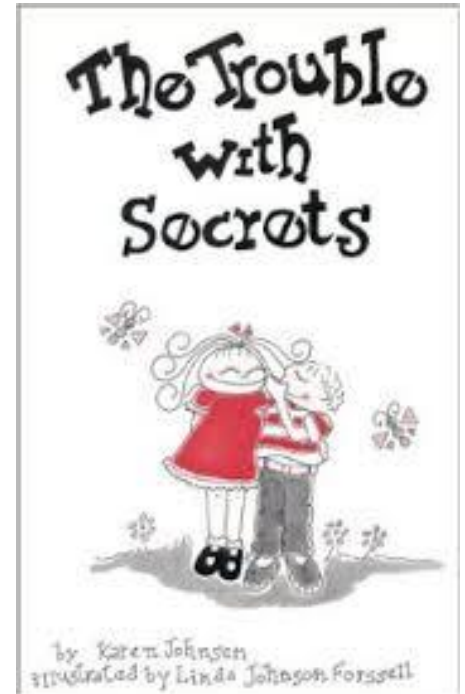
First Grade

- Focus: Body Ownership
 - The Touching Rule
 - Safe vs Unsafe Touch
 - No/Go/Tell
- Activities:
 - Read: "It's MY Body"
 - Discussion of concepts
 - No/Go/Tell worksheet



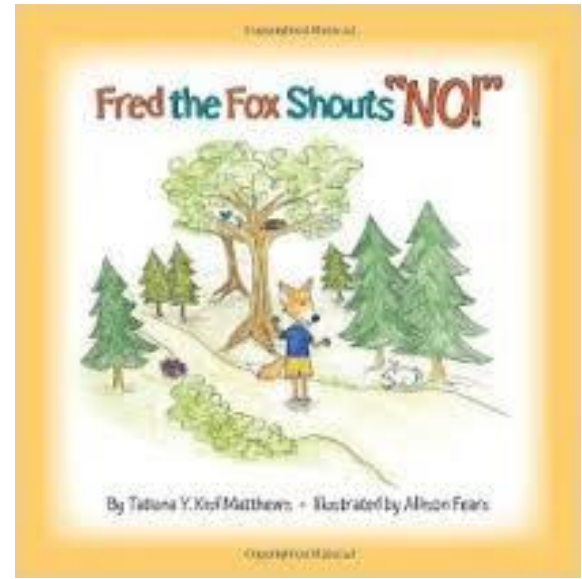
Second Grade

- Focus: Secret Keeping
 - The Touching Rule
 - Good vs Bad Secrets
 - When to share a secret
- Activities:
 - Read: "The Trouble with Secrets"
 - Class activity to practice telling secrets, identifying good/bad secrets



Third Grade

- Focus: Privacy
 - The Touching Rule
 - What is privacy?
 - Saying “No!”
- Activities:
 - Read: “Fred the Fox Shouts NO!”
 - Discussion of concepts from the book
 - Worksheet on saying “No”



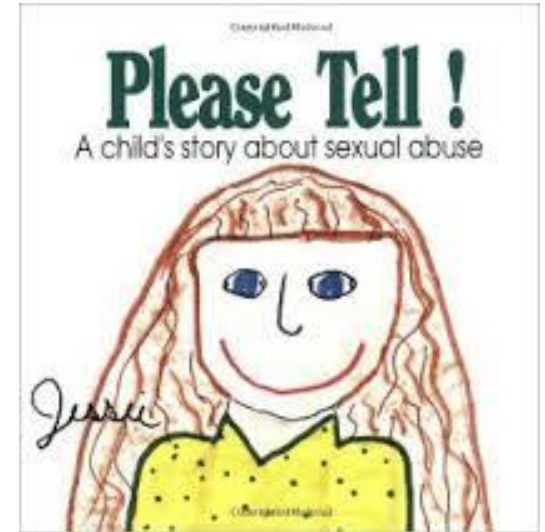
Fourth Grade

- Focus: Secrets
 - Good vs Bad Secrets
 - Personal Body Safety
- Activities:
 - Presentation on Personal Body Safety
 - Read: "Some Secrets Should Never Be Kept"
 - Worksheet on "Adults I can Tell"



Fifth Grade

- Focus: Telling Someone
 - Identifying a support system
 - Telling an adult
- Activities:
 - Read: “Please Tell: a Child’s Story about Sexual Abuse”
 - Personal Body Safety presentation and discussion
 - Worksheet on establishing a support system



Middle School

- Middle school curriculum delivered during Health Class
- Presented by social worker with PE teacher
- One 40 minute lesson
- Each grade level has a different theme
- Students encouraged not to share personal stories during presentations
- Exit slip for students who may want to speak with someone privately

Middle School Themes

- 6th Grade
 - Focus: Empowerment
 - Saying “No”
- 7th Grade
 - Focus: Sexual Harassment
 - Harassment versus flirting
 - Self-advocacy
- 8th Grade
 - Focus: Teen Dating Violence
 - Power and Control
 - Personal Rights

What can parents do?⁴

- Talk to your kids about personal safety, secrets, their right to say no, etc.
 - Use age-appropriate terms
- Talk openly about sexuality and sexual abuse so that kids know it is not a secret or shameful topic
- Let them know that no topic is off-limits between you
- Empower them to say “no”, even to non-sexual touching that makes them feel uncomfortable
- Talk to your child about trusted adults that they can talk to

What can parents do?

- Talk about media and technology with your child
- Be available
- Get to know the adults who sponsor or supervise your child's activities
- Trust your instincts

Signs of Abuse- children and adolescents ^{5, 6}

- Sudden nightmares or sleep problems
- Mood swings: rage, fear, withdrawal
- Changes in eating habits, such as loss of appetite
- New or unusual fears or specific people or places
- Changes in school performance or attendance
- Suddenly has money, toys or gifts without reason
- Reference to self as dirty, repulsive, or bad
- Lack of personal care or hygiene
- Risk-taking behaviors
- Inappropriate sexual behaviors

Who are the offenders? ²

- There is no “typical” profile
- 93% of sexual abuse offenders are male
- 30% of convicted offenders were sexually abused as children
- 30% of offenders are family members of the victim
- Not all offenders are adults- about 23% are under the age of 18
- Approximately 10% are strangers to the victim

What if my child discloses abuse? ^{7, 8}

- Stay calm
- Listen
- Believe them
- Thank them for trusting you enough to tell
- Emphasize that they have done nothing wrong
- Ask simple questions, but don't explore too much
- Get professional help
- Report the abuse, do not investigate it yourself

Resources for Parents

General Resources and Information

- Stop It Now!
 - <http://www.stopitnow.org/>
- US Department of Justice
 - <http://www.nsopw.gov/en/Education>
- Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network
 - <https://rainn.org/>
- Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault
 - <http://www.nwcasa.org/>
- Erin's Law
 - <http://erinslaw.org/>

Specific Resources

- H.E.A.R.T.
 - Healthy relationships/teen dating
 - <http://laurashouse.org/lhteen/>
- Teen Dating Violence Tip Sheet
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/teen-dating-violence-2014-a.pdf>
- Sexual Harassment
 - <https://rainn.org/get-information/types-of-sexual-assault/sexual-harassment>
- Cyberbullying
 - <http://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/talking-about-it/index.html>

Joey Learns the Touching Rule

[Joey Learns the Touching Rule- edited](#)

Questions

References

- 1 Enacted and pending legislation from *National Conference of State Legislatures*, available at <http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/erins-law-and-child-sexual-abuse-prevention-laws.aspx>
- 2 US Dept of Justice, <https://www.nsopw.gov/en/Education/FactsStatistics#sexualabuse>
- 3 Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network (RAINN) <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/children-and-teens>
- 4 US Dept of Justice, <https://www.nsopw.gov/en/Education/TalkingChild>
- 5 US Dept of Justice, <https://www.nsopw.gov/en/Education/RecognizingSexualAbuse>
- 6 Stop it Now, <http://www.stopitnow.org/ohc-content/tip-sheet-7>
- 7 US Dept of Justice, <https://www.nsopw.gov/en/Education/HelpSupport>
- 8 Erin's Law Illinois, <http://www.erinslawillinois.org/resources/faqs/>