

Bright Spot Resources



International Center for Assault Prevention (ICAP):

<http://www.internationalcap.org/>

The International Center for Assault Prevention, known as ICAP, is a 30 year old international prevention program with its central headquarters located at the [Educational Information & Resource Center](#) in Mullica Hill, New Jersey. ICAP works with local people who desire to advocate and protect children by starting a CAP project in their town. Individuals or agencies contact ICAP to arrange project setup trainings. [**Added Note:** ICAP is willing to be involved with a national CAP training of people from various programs for children who are deaf or hard of hearing across the United States. If potentially interested, please contact the VSDB CAP Project: Rebecca.Plesko@vsdb.k12.va.us]

Since its inception in 1978, ICAP has trained over 7 million children, parents and teachers to prevent peer assault, stranger abduction and known adult assault. CAP seeks to integrate the best resources of a community in an effort to reduce a child or young person's vulnerability to verbal, physical and sexual assault. CAP projects work closely with the local school districts, parent/teacher associations and home school groups, and other community groups. All CAP curricula have a threefold educational approach to prevention which includes trainings in the following areas: Staff In service, Parent Program and Individual Classroom Workshops for children and teens. Workshops are provided for children, parents and teachers in the following programs: Preschool CAP, Kindergarten CAP, Elementary CAP, Teen CAP, and Adult Workshops.

ICAP Motto:

All Children Deserve to be Safe, Strong and Free.

All ICAP curriculum is based on an empowerment philosophy which seeks to reduce children's vulnerability to assault by increasing awareness that children have human rights and by providing prevention strategies and resources which will help children keep these rights.

Elementary Child Assault Prevention (CAP):

http://www.internationalcap.org/programs_elementary.html

The Elementary CAP program has three parts: a School staff workshop, a Family Workshop, and a Children's Workshop. In the school and family workshops, we review the signs of child abuse and neglect, the history of CAP/ICAP, prevention theories and strategies, and the details of the Children's Workshop.

In the Children's Workshop, CAP volunteers use a series of roleplays and discussion to teach children strategies for keeping their basic human right to be **SAFE, STRONG and FREE**. The role plays represent the most common assault experiences a child might encounter: child against child (bully behaviors), adult stranger against child, and assault involving an adult a child might know. Children are empowered to seek peer support, assert their rights, and seek help from trusted adults. With ICAP's permission, the VSDB CAP Project has translated the scripted role plays for children into American Sign Language (ASL).

Each role play is performed twice. First, the child is shown as a victim. Then, after a "brainstorming session" the role play is redone as a "success story", incorporating positive prevention techniques. Children are given an opportunity to participate in supportive roles to practice positive behavior. (Note: CAP never allows children participating in their programs to be placed in a negative or scary role even if they are only acting.) In a final role play, the classroom teacher is invited to play her/himself as a supportive adult responding to a child's request for help. This role play gives children an opportunity to visualize what would happen if they needed to talk to someone about a problem. It gives a clear message to children that their teachers care and there to offer support.

Following a brief summary, children are told that CAP facilitators will be available for further discussion. We have found that many children seek out workshop facilitators to talk about a variety of issues. Emphasis during this review time is primarily on reinforcing skills learned during the classroom workshop and strengthening childrens' belief in their rights to be **SAFE, STRONG and FREE**.

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) CAP Project:

<https://sites.google.com/a/vsdb.k12.va.us/vsdb-child-assault-prevention/>

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind started using the Elementary CAP model in 2004. During the 2011-2012 academic year, VSDB received grant funding for the primary prevention of child abuse from the Virginia Department of Social Services to bring this program into the public schools for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, their families, and educational professionals. The website includes information about requesting the CAP program and becoming a Volunteer for Virginia. There are also links to other national resources and a list of counselors for the Deaf community.

Darkness to Light Foundation: www.d2l.org

In 2000, Darkness to Light was created as a nonprofit with the mission of reducing the incidence of child sexual abuse through public awareness and education. Their 2 -3 hour research-based program, *Stewards of Children*, is available online as well as with trained facilitators in most states. **The online training includes printed text for all spoken directions and the video testimonials.**

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN): <http://www.nctsn.org/>

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network was established to improve access to care, treatment, and services for traumatized children and adolescents exposed to traumatic events. There are many resources available at their website. There is a 1-page Press Release summarizing the white paper on deaf children:

http://www.nctsn.net/assets/pdfs/press_releases/NCTSN_Deaf_News_Press_Release_10-31-06.pdf **Press Release - one page**

Technical Reports & Research Articles:

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (2006). *White paper on addressing the trauma treatment needs of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the hearing children of deaf parents*. Los Angeles, Calif., and Durham, NC: National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2006, www.nctsn.org. Available online at: http://www.nctsn.net/org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/edu_materials/Trauma_Deaf_Hard-of-Hearing_Children.pdf

Obinna, J., Krueger, S., Osterbaan, C., Sadusky, J.M., & DeVore, W. (2006). Understanding the needs of the victims of sexual assault in the deaf community: A needs assessment and audit. Grant funded document from United States Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice. Available online at: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/212867.pdf>

Mertens, D. (1996). Breaking the silence about sexual abuse of deaf youth. *American Annals of the Deaf* 141(5): 352-358.

Schild, S., & Dalenberg, C. J. (2012). Trauma exposure and traumatic symptoms in deaf adults. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*. Vol 4(1), pp. 117-127. doi: 10.1037/a0021578. Short summary available online at: <http://www.svenschild.com/TD.html>

Sullivan, P. & Knutson, J. (2000). Maltreatment and disabilities: a population based epidemiological study. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 24 (10), 1257 – 1273. This article is available online at: <http://digilib.bc.edu/reserves/sw805/sullivan805.pdf>

Sullivan, P., Brookhouser, PE., Scanlan, JM, Knutson, J., & Schulte (1991). Patterns of physical and sexual abuse of communicatively handicapped children. *Annals of Otology, Rhinology, & Laryngology*, 100 (3) 188- 194.

News Briefs regarding recent research at RIT/NTID:

Research by Schenkel, Burnash & Rothman-Marshall on higher rates of abuse in students who are deaf or hard of hearing (2010). This was shared at a professional presentation, but available news summaries can be found online at:

<http://www.rit.edu/news/story.php?id=48054>

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/01/110118154733.htm>

<http://www.healthyhearing.com/content/news/Hearing-loss/Other/47691-Hearing-impaired-children-higher-abuse>

<http://www.rit.edu/news/story.php?id=47432> – different research study on domestic violence

Online Presentations and Workshops: (other than those available on the OUR Children WIKI site):

Online workshop specifically about children who are deaf or hard of hearing, with ASL interpreting, voice, and text access from Gallaudet University Social Work Department available here: http://www.gallaudet.edu/Social_Work/CEU_Information/Child_Abuse_and_Deaf_Children.html