

Tuesday Talk October 2014

Bullying and abuse prevention

Welcome to the TX Hands & Voices monthly discussion! Our goal is to make Tuesday Topics a monthly occurrence (the first Tuesday of every month at 8 PM/CST)- so parents can have a place to chat and “hang”, without needing to hire a babysitter or getting dressed up. Now all YOU have to do is start talking!

Tonight’s topic is a tough one - bullying and abuse prevention. “Unfortunately, children with disabilities, and especially those with communication challenges, experience maltreatment at a rate that is three to four times greater than that experienced by their nondisabled peers. Bullying alone is experienced by as many as one in seven children, with a reported 63% or higher rate among students who have any “label.” We will discuss safety plans for your kids - at home, in the schools, and with friends and extracurricular activities and where you can turn if you suspect abuse or neglect for any child http://handsandvoices.org/resources/OUR/SafetyAttachmentIntro_v1.pdf

#1: What grade level is your child? are they in preschool, starting school/mother’s day out for the first time? Elementary? Middle? High? Heading to college or trade school? (we ask so we can share tips for your child’s needs)

#2: Halloween is just around the corner - Have you discussed with your child safety plans for trick or treating? <http://www.kidpower.org/blog/kidnapping-prevention-checklist-for-parents/> have you talked about or practiced what to do in different situations? i.e. how to avoid unsafe situations, what to do when a problem comes up (lost, uncomfortable with someone in their group or an adult at a house they visit, etc.) What are some things you include in your family safety plans?

#3: There is a growing level of attention addressing safety skills as they pertain to a student with special needs and how to include objectives in IFSPs, 504s and IEPs. When our children are better equipped to communicate feelings and emotions, they are at a lesser risk for being bullied or abused. Some sample goals for our kids could include: recognizing appropriate and inappropriate behavior from other students and teachers; identifying first steps to changing the balance of power when they are being manipulated, bullied or harmed; identifying several trusted adults with whom they can discuss/share any unsafe situations. What are some other safety objectives you can think of to add?

- Identify situations where they have the right to say NO and where they do not
 - <http://www.kidpower.org/library/article/childs-choice/>
- How to appropriately insist an adult listen to their concerns/needs (advocacy skills)
- Identify body parts (younger kiddos)
- Identify differences between secrets and surprises (surprises are okay, secrets can be harmful)
- Identify in/Appropriate online behavior
 - <http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>
 - <http://stopcyberbullying.org/>
- Identify in/Appropriate dating behavior
 - <http://www.livesecure.org/dating-safety-tips-for-teens/>
 - http://handsandvoices.org/resources/OUR/safety_topic.htm

#4: Some sample IFSP safety objective goals for parents might be: Parents can identify concrete factors that will protect a very young child (background checks on caregivers, site visits, etc.);

Parents know how to report suspected abuse or neglect. What are some other safety objectives for parents to be more aware of potential bullying, abuse and neglect?

http://handsandvoices.org/resources/OUR/SafetyAttachmentPlanTemplate_v1-1.pdf

5): There are many resources out there for teaching kids about their safety, bullying prevention that go beyond the old “kids will be kids”, “grow a thicker skin”, “did you try avoiding him/her” responses that put blame/responsibility on the victim. Kidpower is a group that has many resources for kids of all ages. Hands & Voices O.U.R (Observe Understand and Respond) is a program that has tools and resources specific to Deaf/hard of Hearing kids. ChildHelp National Abuse Hotline has a phone number specific to our kids too [1-800-222-4453](tel:1-800-222-4453) you can call if you suspect abuse or neglect and don’t know where/how/if you need to report it! Where else do you know of that you can find resources for bullying, abuse and neglect preventative measures?

- https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=7+kidpower+strategies
- <http://handsandvoices.org/resources/OUR/index.htm>
- http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/missing/i_safety/cyberbullying.htm
- <http://www.internetsafety101.org/safety101.htm>
- church Safe Sanctuary type programs
- BSA Youth Protection Training
- Local police - to report and to receive training

#6) For those of you who have older kids and/or are Deaf/Hard of Hearing adults - what advice and resources do you have for families with pre-teens and teens on navigating the hormonal world of middle and high school and setting off to life on their own, to help them deal with and prevent bullying and abuse?

Thanks so much for being a part of this chat! If there are no more questions for me I will sign off! Y’all feel free to keep talking and we will see you next month on the first Tuesday of the month at 8 PM/CST when we’ll talk about “Keeping your child included in family and holiday gatherings (communication access)”... in the meantime - Keep those questions and comments coming! We will try to be on FB at 8pm other Tuesdays for general chats.

<http://www.wrightslaw.com/advoc/articles/advocacy.intro.htm>

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

<http://www.kidpower.org/library/article/prevent-bullying/>

http://handsandvoices.org/pdf/IEP_Checklist.pdf

<http://deafed-childabuse-neglect-col.wiki.educ.msu.edu/Silence+is+NOT+an+Option>

<http://deafed-childabuse-neglect-col.wiki.educ.msu.edu/Bright+Spot+-+Sara+Kennedy>

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/>

<http://www.pacerteensagainstbullying.org/tab/>

<http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>

<http://stopcyberbullying.org/>

<http://www.nctsn.org/resources/public-awareness/bullying-prevention-awareness-month#q3>

<http://www.abilitypath.org/areas-of-development/learning--schools/bullying/articles/walk-a-mile-in-their-shoes.pdf>

<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/>

<http://www.unicef.org/sowc2013/>

<http://handsandvoices.org/resources/OUR/index.htm>

<http://deafed-childabuse-neglect-col.wiki.educ.msu.edu/file/view/A+Parent+Driven+Plan+to+Keep+Our+Children+Safe+at+Home+and+at+School.pdf/505600546/A%20Parent%20Driven%20Plan%20to%20Keep%20Our%20Children%20Safe%20at%20Home%20and%20at%20School.pdf>

<http://www.dcmp.org/caai/nadh258.pdf>