

Do? TELL! Kids Against Child Abuse

Overview of Discussion Guide

Do? TELL! Kids Against Child Abuse is a film for children and adults. It tells the stories of four children who were abused and neglected by their caregivers. Each child tells what happened, how he/she got help, and how he/she has been able to recover from the abuse.

The viewer of the film will learn:

1. the meaning of abuse and neglect from real life stories,
2. what it is like to be a victim from the perspective of the child,
3. that no matter how hopeless the situation seems, help is available, and
4. that healing and recovery are possible.

Do? TELL! contains powerful information and images. Children viewing this film should be accompanied by an adult who is familiar with the content of the film. The Discussion Guide has been developed to assist the classroom teacher or other group leader and is meant to enhance the learning experience.

Do? TELL! is 40 minutes long and can be viewed with or without subtitles. The entire film can be watched in one sitting or viewed in segments, using the Discussion Guide to promote questions and answers following each scene.

The main menu and sub-menu options are as follows:

- Play Film
- Scene Selection
 - Curt
 - Xochitl
 - Adam
 - Rachel
 - Wrap Up
- Subtitles
 - English
 - Spanish
 - Subtitles Off
- Help Line

The film begins with an introduction by Host Anthony Natale. During the Introduction, Mr. Natale introduces the four children, the topic of the film, and the Deaf actors who will interpret the children's stories into American Sign Language.

Following the Introduction are the children's stories, which are also Scene Selections under the menu.

- Curt – Physical Abuse
- Xochitl – Sexual Abuse
- Adam – Sexual Abuse
- Rachel - Neglect
- Wrap-Up

(The discussion leader may wish to show the Introduction and “Curt – Physical Abuse” together.)

For each section of the film, the Discussion Guide will list:

- vocabulary words and definitions, and
- questions for discussion, followed by appropriate answers.

INTRODUCTION

**Host Anthony Natale introduces the four children,
the topic of the film, and the Deaf actors.**

Vocabulary:

Abuse

Abuse means someone hurts you by

1. hitting you,
2. touching you in an uncomfortable or inappropriate way, or
3. not taking care of you (neglect).

Abuser

The abuser is the person who does the hurting.

Victim

The victim is the person who is being hurt.

Discussion Questions:

1. Question: What do the four children have in common?
1. Answer: They were all abused.
2. Question: Is abuse OK?
2. Answer: No, abuse is wrong.
3. Question: Were the children in the film really abused?
3. Answer: Yes, the children are telling their real stories about being abused.
4. Question: Who are Robert and Rosa Lee?
4. Answer: They are actors who are Deaf who are telling the children's stories in American Sign Language.
5. Question: Are the children Deaf?
5. Answer: No, the children are hearing.
6. Question: Do Deaf children get abused?
6. Answer: Yes, Deaf children get abused.
7. Question: Who is Anthony?
7. Answer: He is an actor who is Deaf.

CURT – Physical Abuse

Vocabulary:

Physical Having to do with the body.

Physical Abuse

Hurting a child's body by hitting or any way that hurts the child and leaves marks or bruises.

Child Abuse Hotline

A 24-hour phone number to call to get help when a child is being abused. (Every state has a Child Abuse Hotline.)

Foster Parent

Someone a child lives with if their own parent is abusing them or can't take care of them.

Therapy

Counseling to help a person get over something bad that has happened to them.

Family Therapy

Counseling for the whole family, so the parents can learn how to use safe discipline and the children will not get hurt. In Family Therapy, family members learn how to listen to one another.

Therapist

The person who does the counseling. The Therapist helps children feel better if they have been abused and helps parents learn the right way to discipline their children.

Discussion Questions:

1. Question: Why did Curt's father abuse Curt and Ruthie?
1. Answer: He didn't know a better way to discipline his children.
He lost his temper.
He drank too much alcohol.
He was probably abused when he was a child.

2. Question: Why didn't Curt tell anyone?
2. Answer: He was afraid his father would go to jail.

3. Question: How did the abuse make Curt feel?
3. Answer: He thought he couldn't do anything right.
He thought he was a really bad kid.

4. Question: How did the abuse stop?
4. Answer: Ruthie told her friends who told a grown-up who called the Child Abuse Hotline.

5. Question: Why did Curt and Ruthie go to live with Foster Parents?

5. Answer: It was not safe for them to stay with their own parents.

6. Question: What did Curt and Ruthie's parents learn in Family Therapy?

6. Answer: They learned:

- how to discipline their children without hitting them and
- how to listen to one another.

7. Question: What did Curt and Ruthie learn in Family Therapy?

7. Answer: They learned to trust and respect their parents again.

XOCHITL – Sexual Abuse

Vocabulary:

Sexual

Having to do with the private parts of the body.

Sexual abuse

When someone touches the private parts of a child's body or has the child touch their private parts. The abuser will usually want the child to keep it a secret.

Therapy (see Curt)

Therapist (see Curt)

Discussion Questions:

1. Question: After Xochitl's parents got divorced, who did she live with?
1. Answer: She lived with her mother and her stepfather.

2. Question: Did she ever see her real father?
2. Answer: Yes, she visited him every other weekend.

3. Question: Who abused Xochitl?
3. Answer: It was her stepfather.

4. Question: Why do you think he gave her gifts?
4. Answer: He wanted to confuse her, so she wouldn't tell anyone about the abuse.

5. Question: Could abuse be the child's fault?
5. Answer: No, abuse is never the child's fault, even if the child took gifts or money.

6. Question: How did the abuse affect Xochitl?
6. Answer: She felt "different".
She felt lonely.
She felt sad and mad.
Her grades were low.
She was afraid to go home.
She didn't trust people anymore.

7. Question: Who did Xochitl tell about the abuse?
7. Answer: First she told her mother, but her mother didn't believe her.
Then she told her father. Her father believed her and helped her.

8. Question: What did her father do?

8. Answer: He called the Child Abuse Hotline.
He took her to visits with her therapist.
9. Question: How can therapy help?
9. Answer: It helps the victim understand what happened.
Therapy helps get the bad feelings out.
Therapy helps the child understand it was not his/her fault.

ADAM – Sexual Abuse

Vocabulary

Group Therapy

A group of people who have had a similar experience, like sexual abuse, meet together with a therapist to express thoughts and feelings. They recover from the abuse and become strong again. Sometimes they do this through talking/signing and sometimes through sports or acting out their feelings.

Court

The place where the lawyers, the judge, and jury decide what will happen to the abuser.

Discussion Questions

1. Question: Who abused Adam?

1. Answer: The 20-year old son of one of his mother's customers.

2. Question: Why did Adam go with him?

2. Answer: The abuser pretended to be a good guy.

Adam trusted him, and Adam's mother trusted him.

The abuser tricked Adam. He said it was OK and nothing bad would happen.

3. Question: Why didn't Adam tell?

3. Answer: He was scared.

4. Question: How did the abuse affect Adam?

4. Answer: His school grades went down.

He became very angry.

He wanted to be with his parents all the time. He never wanted to be alone.

Rachel – Neglect

Vocabulary

Neglect

Not taking care of a child or not giving the child what he/she needs, like food, clothing, love, and attention.

Abandon

The parent or caregiver leaves the child all alone.

Social Worker

The social worker is a person who helps the child be safe and who finds someone to take care of the child. (Name the state agency which does this in your state.)

Therapist (see Curt)

Foster Parent (see Curt)

Discussion Questions

1. Question: What was it like when Rachel lived with her mother?
1. Answer: She was left alone and didn't have anything to eat.

2. Question: What was it like when Rachel lived with her grandmother?
2. Answer: Her grandmother did not take care of her.
Her grandmother was sick and drank too much.
Rachel had to take care of herself and her grandmother.
She had to cook and clean and grocery shop when she was only four years old.

3. Question: How did being neglected affect Rachel?
3. Answer: She had a lot of stress inside her.
She couldn't relax and enjoy herself.

4. Question: How did Rachel finally get help?
4. Answer: She told her school guidance counselor who called Social Services (Child Abuse Hotline.)

5. Question: Who helped Rachel recover from being neglected?
5. Answer: Her social worker Wanda, her therapist Karen, and her foster mother Deedie.

Additional Discussion Questions and Wrap-Up

1. Question: Do Deaf people abuse children?
1. Answer: Abusers can be anyone:
 - Deaf,
 - hearing,
 - older children,
 - teenagers,
 - grown-ups,
 - people in the neighborhood, at school, or in the family.

2. Question: Is it possible for someone you love and respect to abuse children? Is it possible for someone who seems to be a nice person to be an abuser?
2. Answer: Yes, it is all possible. It doesn't make sense, but it can be true.

3. Question: If abuse happened a long time ago, should you just forget about it?
3. Answer: No, it is still important to tell and get help for yourself.

4. Question: How can a victim get help?
4. Answer: Tell someone. Here are some ideas:
 - a. teacher
 - b. parent
 - c. aunt, uncle
 - d. doctor
 - e. Sign Language Interpreter
 - f. neighbor
 - g. Child Abuse Hotline (give the Hotline number for your state)
 - h. **Nineline** (from anywhere in the country)

Covenant House

NINELINE

www.nineline.org

1-800-999-9999 (Voice)

1-800-999-9915 (TTY)

The **Nineline** website has information for Kids on many topics.
Nineline counselors can be reached 24 hours per day by phone, TTY, or email,
or go to the website and join the **Nineline** Forum.

5. Question: What if you tell, but the abuse keeps happening?
5. Answer: Tell someone else. Keep telling different people until someone believes you and makes the abuse stop happening.

Children have the right to be taken care of and to be safe.

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