

THE ADVOCATE

PEE DEE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Editor: Debbie Barrett

Volume 24, Issue 2 - April 2023

April
IS BOTH

CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH *and* Sexual Assault
Awareness Month



In 2001, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinated the first national Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), building on the years of advocacy and awareness that had come before. Through this campaign, teal was solidified as the color associated with sexual assault awareness, and teal ribbons became the symbol of sexual assault awareness and prevention. SAAM events continue to support survivors and shine a light on sexual violence prevention in communities and on college campuses across the U.S. — with the first-ever completely virtual campaign taking place in April of 2020.

In 1983, April was proclaimed as the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM). Since then, child abuse and neglect awareness activities have been promoted across the country during April of each year. In 1989, the Blue Ribbon Campaign had its early beginnings as a Virginia grandmother's tribute to her grandson who had died as a result of abuse. She tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her car as a way to remember him and to alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse.



In 2008, Prevent Child Abuse America introduced the pinwheel as the new national symbol for child abuse prevention because by its very nature, the pinwheel connotes playfulness, joy and childhood. It has come to serve as a physical reminder of the great childhoods we want for all children. And as a symbol, the cyclical nature of the pinwheel calls to mind the positive cycles of love and support we want to help families create.

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**PEE DEE COALITION
24-HOUR CRISIS LINES
843-669-4600
1-800-273-1820**

**DURANT CHILDREN'S
CENTER
843-664-4357
PARENT HELPLINE
843-618-2420**

www.peedecoalition.org

**CRISIS
LINE**

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or child abuse, please call our 24-HOUR CRISIS LINE at 1-800-273-1820.



SCAN ME

Find us on Facebook

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UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE: Know your part. Do your part.

Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual contact.

This can include words and actions of a sexual nature.

Sexual violence can be committed without the knowledge of the person harmed. For example, several factors can interfere with a person's knowledge that sexual violence has been committed against them: age, cognitive abilities, mental illness, incapacitation due to drugs and/or alcohol, and others.

Some forms of sexual violence may not be illegal, such as sexist and sexually violent jokes, street sexual harassment, and catcalling but this does not make them any less threatening or harmful to the person victimized.

Oppression is a root cause of sexual violence. Sexual violence is tied to inequality. People who commit sexual violence may target people who may have less perceived power in society due to factors such as (but not limited to):

- Age
- Disability
- Gender identity
- Immigration status
- Income
- Political identity
- Race or ethnicity
- Religious or spiritual beliefs
- Sexual orientation



People who perpetrate sexual assault often use coercion, manipulation, or "charm." In some cases, they may use force, threats, or injury. The lack of physical injuries to the victim does not indicate the victim's consent.

Sexual Violence can occur in any setting.

FAITH COMMUNITIES • SCHOOLS • HEALTHCARE FACILITIES • HOMES
PARTIES OR OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS • PRISON OR OTHER CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES
RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES • TEAMS AND OTHER ORGANIZED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES • WORKPLACES

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Physical Safety

Make sure the person is in a safe place. Be there emotionally for them and encourage reaching out for additional support. Contact Pee Dee Coalition for free and confidential counseling and support.

Medical Attention

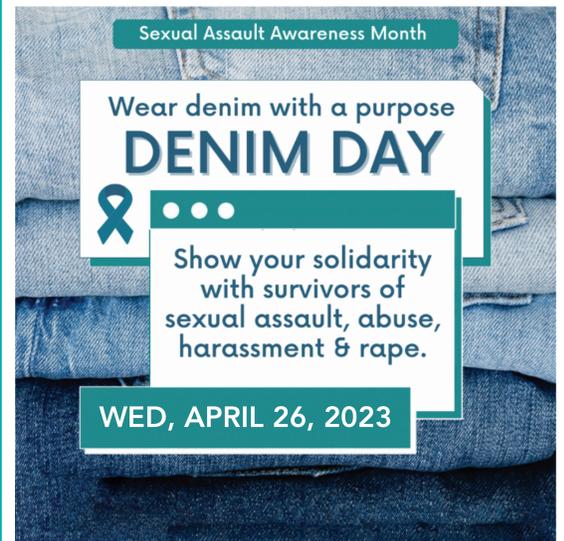
A medical exam may reveal injuries that may not be visible. Hospital staff can also provide treatment for possible sexually transmitted diseases, emergency contraception, and perform an exam to collect evidence if the assault happened within five days. Hospitals may have different policies around the time frame for an exam.

Reporting the Assault

The victim does not have to talk to law enforcement to get a forensic exam. They have up to one year to decide if they want the evidence to be maintained for investigation.

Counseling

Victims and others in their life may need help dealing with feelings they experience after a sexual assault impacts their lives. Sexual assault is a serious crime, and is known to have short- and long-term effects on victims and those who love and care for them.





HOW YOU CAN HELP

Effective communication is important to a victim's well-being. If you are wondering what you can do, here are some suggestions:

- Remain calm. You may feel shocked or outraged, but expressing these emotions to the victim may cause confusion or discomfort.
- Believe the victim. Make it clear that you believe the assault happened and that the assault is not her or his fault.
- Give the victim control. Control was taken away during the assault. Empower the victim to make decisions about what steps to take next, and try to avoid telling her or him what to do.
- Be available for the victim to express a range of feelings: crying, screaming, being silent, etc. Remember, the victim is angry with the person who assaulted her or him and the situation, not with you. Just be there to listen.
- Assure the victim of your support. She or he needs to know that regardless of what happened, your relationship will remain intact.
- Avoid making threats against the suspect. Threats of harm may only cause the victim to worry about your safety and risk of arrest.
- Maintain confidentiality. Let the victim decide who to tell about the assault.
- Encourage counseling. Give the victim the Coalition's crisis line number 843-669-4600 or 1-800-273-1820 but let the victim decide whether or not to call. You can assure them that they do not have to give their real name or address to receive services. All services are 100% free and confidential.
- Ask before offering physical support. Asking "Can I give you a hug?" can re-establish the victim's sense of security, safety, and control.
- Say only what you can guarantee. Don't make promises you can't keep, such as saying the victim will never be hurt again, or that the offender will be put in jail.
- Allow the proper authorities to deal with the assault. Confronting the person who committed the sexual assault may be harmful or dangerous. Attempting to investigate or question others who may know about the assault may hamper a legal investigation. Leave this to the proper authorities.
- Be patient and recognize that healing can take years with advances and setbacks.
- Take care of yourself. If you need support for yourself, please contact your local rape crisis center for a confidential place to discuss your feelings.

SAAM Day of Action

Tuesday, April 4, 2023



Show your support for survivors on the Day of Action by wearing teal.



**SEXUAL ASSAULT— NO EXCEPTIONS,
NO EXCUSES**



What you shouldn't do:

- Invalidate a victim's experience or feelings, encourage silence
- Use language that blames them for their victimization
- Say "boys will be boys" or excuse the assaulter's behavior as "childhood flirting"

20/200

20/90

20/20

ELIMINATE

1

2

3

What can you do:

- Avoid Judgement
- Check in periodically
- Educate yourself and others
- Call out inappropriate behaviors and hold those people accountable
- Know resources to provide for further help

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Know Your Part:

Each member of our community has a unique role in preventing and responding to sexual assault. We must recognize our part in stopping this crime, starting with our own awareness and knowing when and where to intervene.



Do Your Part:

We have to act. If we see a crime or inappropriate behavior unfolding, as bystanders, we need to step in to stop and prevent it. We each need to add our voice to the call to end this crime.

If interested in community education events taking place near you or to speak to an advocate, please reach out to your local Pee Dee Coalition Center

- Bennettsville** 843-479-0882 **Chesterfield** 843-623-7364 **Darlington** 843-395-2748 **Dillon** 843-774-0898
Florence 843-669-4694 **Hartsville** 843-383-0240 **Kingstree** 843-354-6481 **Lake City** 843-394-8566 **Marion** 843-423-6568

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

Know your part. Do your part.

Inequality can result in people having less access to information and resources. This can make it hard for a person to report sexual assault or get help.

- Carry sexual assault crisis cards in your purse or bag. Put a few by the cash register in stores you frequent. Place them in dressing rooms at department stores or in public restrooms in the stalls. Privacy is best as a victim will not choose a card when they are surrounded by others also washing their hands.
- If you own a business, display a poster with the crisis line and allow cards in the private places identified above.
- Churches are another place you can place posters and crisis cards. Perhaps not on your pastor's desk as some victims wouldn't think of revealing to their pastor but they will take a card from the restroom if no one is looking.
- If you are in a human resources role at your company, make sure you have crisis cards and referral information available.

- Physicians may hear from a victim or may identify sexual assault as a root cause of a health problem. Make sure your physicians have crisis cards available for distribution.
- School faculty, staff, Resident Assistants, coaches, counselors - keep information easily available.
- If you are out and about, look for opportunities to speak up, to give a crisis card.

Sexual violence affects everyone: individuals, families, communities, and the larger society.

IT CAN BE PREVENTED.

Community members can work to prevent sexual violence by establishing healthy and positive relationships that are based on respect, safety, and equality.

You can play an active role in stopping sexual violence before it occurs by becoming engaged bystanders. If you see something, say something. Don't turn your head and walk on. Speak up. Speak out.

Sexual violence affects us all; therefore, we are all a part of the solution.

INCREASING SAFETY WHILE ON CAMPUS



The following tips may reduce your risk for many different types of crimes, including sexual violence. As high school graduation nears, spend some time discussing personal safety with your soon-to-be college freshman.

- **Know your resources.** Who should you contact if you or a friend needs help? Where should you go? Locate resources such as the campus health center, campus police station, and a local sexual assault service provider. Notice where emergency phones are located on campus, and program the campus security number into your cell phone for easy access.
- **Stay alert.** When you're moving around on campus or in the surrounding neighborhood, be aware of your surroundings. Consider inviting a friend to join you or asking campus security for an escort. If you're alone, only use headphones in one ear to stay aware of your surroundings.
- **Be careful about posting your location.** Many social media sites, like Facebook and Foursquare, use geolocation to publicly share your location. Consider disabling this function and reviewing other social media settings.
- **Make others earn your trust.** A college environment can foster a false sense of security. They may feel like fast friends, but give people time to earn your trust before relying on them.
- **Think about Plan B.** Spend some time thinking about back-up plans for potentially sticky situations. If your phone dies, do you have a few numbers memorized to get help? Do you have emergency cash in case you can't use a credit card? Do you have the address to your dorm or college memorized? If you drive, is there a spare key hidden, gas in your car, and a set of jumper cables?
- **Be secure.** Lock your door and windows when you're asleep and when you leave the room. If people constantly prop open the main door to the dorm or apartment, tell security or a trusted authority figure.

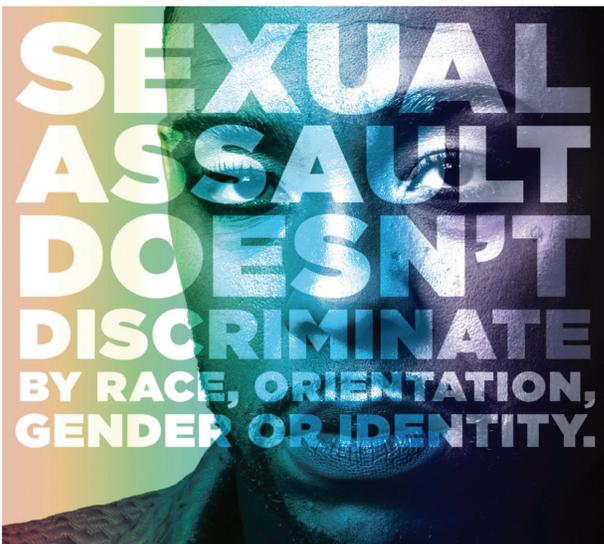
PEE DEE COALITION'S 24-HOUR CRISIS LINE
1-800-273-1820 OR 843-669-4600
FOR FREE, CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE

“

“The hotline helped me so much because I could talk to someone I trusted, but I didn't need to worry about what they would think of me or if telling them would change our relationship.”

— Survivor

“ Today in science class I learned every cell in our entire body is replaced every seven years. How lovely it is to know one day I will have a body you will never have touched. ”



"NO" MEANS NO
"STOP" MEANS NO
"WAIT" MEANS NO
"IT HURTS" MEANS NO
"NOT NOW" MEANS NO
"I'M NOT SURE" MEANS NO
"I'VE CHANGED MY MIND" MEANS NO
"I HAVE A BOY/GIRLFRIEND" MEANS NO
AND NO DOES NOT MEAN "CONVINCE ME"



Together, we can
prevent child abuse...
Because childhood can
last a lifetime.



DURANT CHILDREN’S CENTER

Serving Children and Their Families in the Pee Dee Region for 29 years



The Elizabeth Pettigrew Durant Children’s Center has been providing continuous services to children and their families since it opened in April of 1994. In 2009, the Fourth Judicial Circuit Satellite opened in Hartsville and in 2020, the Third Circuit Satellite opened in Sumter. The reason

for three locations is to implement best practice – that all children in the Pee Dee Region and Sumter have more reasonable access to services if needed.

At the Durant Children’s Center, the child participates in a detailed assessment, and if needed, a physical examination. This approach is used in accordance with the national standards for children’s advocacy centers, established by the American Professional Society on Abuse of Children to avoid excessive interviewing and examinations.

Individual therapy is offered at each location by professional counselors who have received specialized training in evidence-based therapeutic treatments and who use a trauma-informed approach in each interaction with the child and their protective caregiver.

The centers provide services to protective caregivers designed to help them understand the specific needs of an abused child and ways that the family can support their healing while also receiving support for their own needs.

The Durant Center’s motto, “The House Where Healing Begins,” guides the staff’s approach to each child.

A child who needs the CAC’s services also needs a sense of balance restored to his or her life as quickly as possible. At the Durant Children’s Center, the staff respect the developmental stages of the child, the child’s rights and dignity, and also the needs of each family for safety and healing.

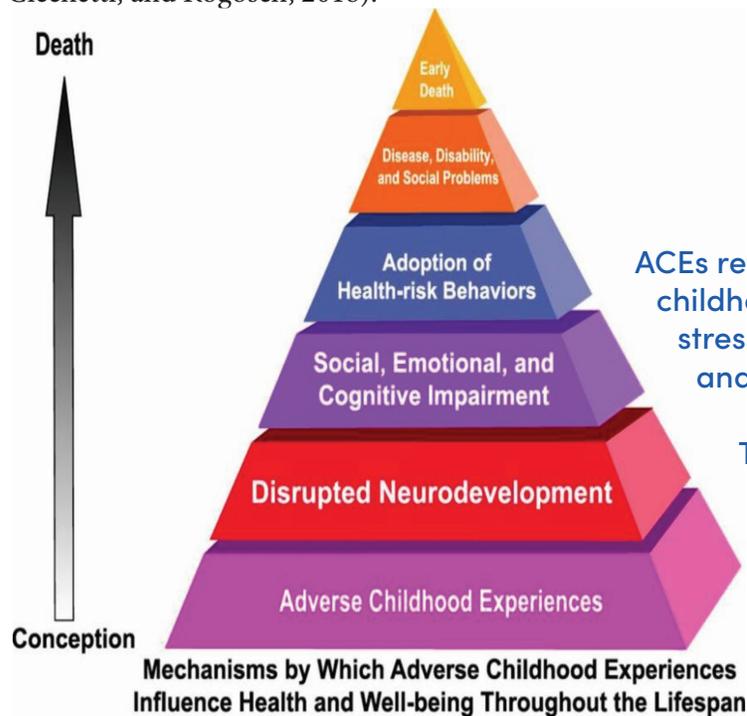


**CHILD ABUSE —
IT IS YOUR BUSINESS**

LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Aside from the immediate physical injuries children can experience through maltreatment, a child's reactions to abuse or neglect can have lifelong and even intergenerational impacts. Childhood maltreatment can be linked to later physical, psychological, and behavioral consequences as well as costs to society as a whole. These consequences may be independent of each other, but they may also be interrelated. For example, abuse or neglect may stunt physical development of the child's brain and lead to psychological problems, such as low self-esteem, which could later lead to high-risk behaviors such as substance use.

The outcomes for each child may vary widely and are affected by a combination of factors, including the child's age and developmental status when the maltreatment occurred; the type, frequency, duration, and severity of the maltreatment; and the relationship between the child and the perpetrator. Additionally, children who experience maltreatment often are affected by other adverse experiences (e.g., parental substance use, domestic violence, poverty), which can make it difficult to separate the unique effects of maltreatment (Rose, Handley, Cicchetti, and Rogosch, 2018).



ACEs refers to a group of traumatic experiences in childhood, including maltreatment, that can cause toxic stress and affect an individual's physical, psychological, and behavioral well-being.

The 10 ACEs generally studied include: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, physical neglect, emotional neglect, intimate partner violence within the household, substance misuse within the household, mental illness within the household, parental separation or divorce, and incarcerated household member.

PHYSICAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

- Diabetes
- Lung Disease
- Malnutrition
- Vision problems
- Functional limitations
- Heart attack
- Arthritis
- Back problems
- High blood pressure
- Brain damage
- Migraine headaches
- Chronic bronchitis, emphysema, COPD
- Cancer
- Stroke
- Bowel disease
- Chronic fatigue syndrome

BEHAVIORAL CONSEQUENCES

- Unhealthy sexual practices as they reach adolescence
 - Sexual risk taking
 - Higher number of sex partners
 - Sex exchanged for money, gifts or other materials support
- Juvenile delinquency leading to adult criminality
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Future perpetration of maltreatment

PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES

- Diminished executive function and cognitive skills
- Poor mental and emotional health
- Attachment and social difficulties
- Post-traumatic stress



THOUGHTS FROM A THERAPIST: Natasha Daniels, MSW, Child Therapist, Hill Child Counseling

Straight talk about body parts and a no-secrets policy can empower kids to get help when they need it.

We teach our young children all sorts of ways to keep themselves safe. We teach them to watch the hot stove, we teach them to look both ways before they cross the street. But more often than not, personal body safety is not taught until much older – until sometimes, it is too late. Research conducted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that approximately 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls are sexually abused before the age of 18. You want to hear something even scarier? According to the US Department of Justice (nsopw.gov) only 10% of perpetrators were strangers to the child!

These statistics do not surprise me. In my practice, I meet children on a weekly basis who have been victims of sexual abuse. Many of them are under five years old. Almost all of them knew their perpetrator.

Parents often say that they didn't think this could happen to them, that they never leave their children with strangers, that they always keep their children within their eyesight.

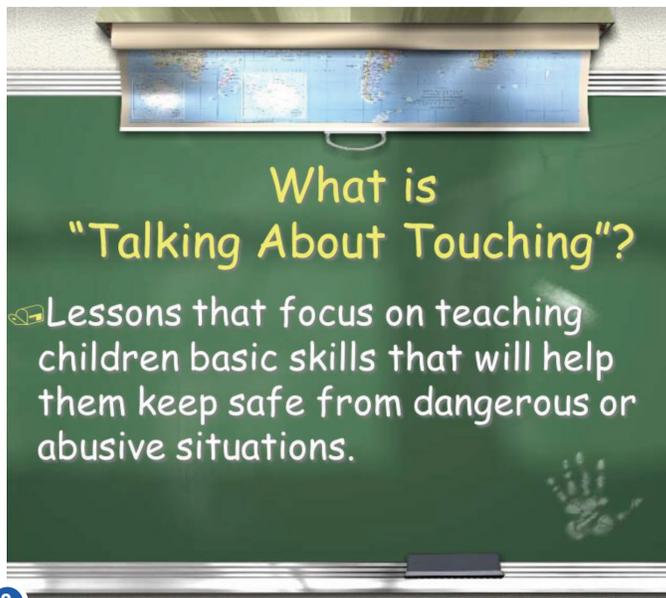
Do your children go on play dates? Do they go to daycare or pre-school? Do you have friends or family over to your house? Do they play at a neighbor's house? Do they go to church activities? Do they play on a sports team? The fact is, you cannot fully prevent the risk of your child being sexually abused.



The children I have worked with come from good neighborhoods, and good homes, and go to really good schools. I have worked with children who have been sexually abused on play dates, sleepovers, in the classroom, on the playground, on the school bus, in their playroom, and out in their backyard.

Now that I have officially scared you to death, let's walk you back down from the cliff. We have to allow our children to go out into the world and interact with those around them. But we can arm them with knowledge that might save them from being victimized.

Parents do not always talk to their children about body safety early enough. They think kids are too young. It is too scary. But it is never too soon, and it doesn't have to be a scary conversation. Here are 10 things that could help your child be less vulnerable to sexual abuse.



"Talk About Touching," a personal body safety curriculum developed by the Committee for Children, is utilized at the primary and elementary school levels. Through interactive activities, children in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade are empowered to say "NO!" to unsafe touches by learning personal defense mechanisms useful in dangerous situations. All information is presented in a fun and non-intrusive manner that places the blame for unwanted touches squarely on the perpetrator and not on the child. Presentations are offered at no charge to public and private schools, daycare centers, and after school programs, faith-based groups, sports teams, and civic clubs throughout the Pee Dee Region. Please plan ahead and make a call now for the summer months as well as the fall semester.



Email Katy Brown at
kbrown@durantchildren.org
or call her at 843-664-4357
for more information or
to schedule a presentation.



10 Ways to Teach Children to Speak Up About Sexual Abuse

01

Talk about body parts early.

Name body parts and talk about them very early. Use proper names for body parts, or at least teach your child what the actual words are for their body parts. Many young girls call their vagina their “bottom.” Feeling comfortable using these words and knowing what they mean can help a child talk clearly if something inappropriate has happened.

02

Teach them that some body parts are private.

Tell your child that their private parts are called private because they are not for everyone to see. Explain that mommy and daddy can see them naked, but people outside of the parents should only see them with their clothes on. Explain how a doctor can see them without their clothes on because mommy and daddy are there with them and the doctor is checking their body. Simply speaking, private parts are those covered by a bathing suit.

03

Teach your child body boundaries.

Tell your child matter-of-factly that no one should touch their private parts and that no one should ask them to touch somebody else’s private parts. Parents will often forget the second part of this sentence. Sexual abuse often begins with the perpetrator asking the child to touch them or someone else.

04

Tell your child that body secrets are not okay.

Most perpetrators will tell the child to keep the abuse a secret. This can be done in a friendly way, such as “I love playing with you, but if you tell anyone else what we played, they won’t let me come over again.” Or it can be a threat: “This is our secret. If you tell anyone, I will tell them it was your idea and you will get in big trouble!” Tell your kids that no matter what anyone tells them, body secrets are not okay and they should always tell you if someone tries to make them keep a body secret.

05

Tell your child that no one should take pictures of their private parts.

This one is often missed by parents. There is a whole sick world out there of pedophiles who love to take and trade pictures of naked children online. This is an epidemic and it puts your child at risk. Tell your kids that **no one should ever take pictures of their private parts.**

06

Teach your child how to get out of scary or uncomfortable situations.

Some children are uncomfortable with telling people “No” – especially older peers or adults. Tell them that it’s okay to tell an adult they have to leave, if something that feels wrong is happening and help give them words to get out of uncomfortable situations. Tell your child that if someone wants to see or touch private parts, they can tell them that they need to leave to go potty.

07

Have a code word your children can use when they feel unsafe or want to be picked up.

As children get a little bit older, you can give them a code word that they can use when they are feeling unsafe. This can be used at home, when there are guests in the house or when they are on a play date or a sleepover.

08

Tell your children they will never be in trouble if they tell you a body secret.

Children often say that they didn’t say anything because they thought they would get in trouble, too. This fear is often used by the perpetrator. Tell your child that no matter what happens, when they tell you anything about body safety or body secrets, they will NEVER get in trouble.

09

Tell your child that a body touch might tickle or feel good.

Many parents and books talk about “good touch and bad touch,” but this can be confusing because often touches do not hurt or feel bad. It might be helpful to use the term “secret touch,” as it is a more accurate depiction of what might happen.

10

Tell your child that these rules apply even with the people they know, people they love and with another child.

This is an important point to discuss with your children. When you ask a young child what a “bad guy” looks like, they will most likely describe a cartoonish villain. You can say something like, “Mommy and daddy might touch your private parts when we are cleaning your or if you need cream – but no one else should touch you there. No friends, no aunts or uncles, not grandparents or cousins, not teachers or coaches. Even if you like them or think they are in charge, they should still not touch your private parts.”

We are not naïve enough to believe that these conversations will absolutely prevent sexual abuse, but knowledge is a powerful deterrent, especially with young children who are targeted due to their innocence and ignorance in the area.

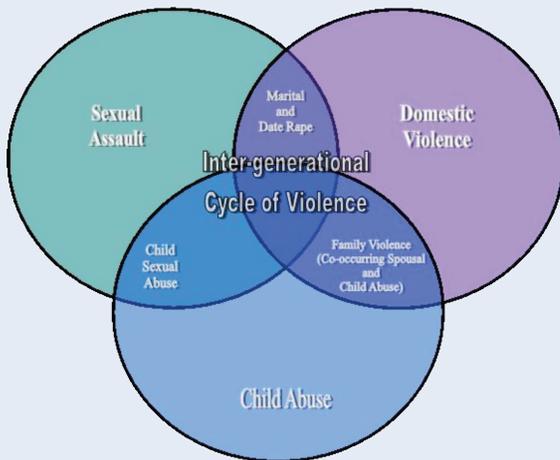
And one discussion is not enough. Find natural times to reiterate these messages such as bath time or when they are running around naked. And please share this article with those you love and care about – help us spread the message of personal body safety.



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
PREVENT CHILD
ABUSE PEE DEE**

PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Child abuse and neglect are preventable. Certain factors may increase or decrease the risk of perpetrating or experiencing child abuse and neglect. To prevent child abuse and neglect, we must understand and address the factors that put people at risk for or protect them from violence. Everyone benefits when children have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.



Different types of violence are connected and often have root causes. Child abuse and neglect are linked to other forms of violence through shared risk and protective factors. Addressing and preventing one form of violence may have an impact on preventing other forms of violence.

This is why when Alternatives to Violence enrolls participants in its program, they reach out to the victims and link them to services in the community. When women enter the shelter, the children are assessed for counseling needs. The moms receive parenting education.

When children are assisted at the Durant Center and there is domestic violence in the home, the victims are referred for services and the perpetrators are referred to ATV.

Long-term, abused children whose needs are unmet, may experience a lifetime of challenges and may resort to violence against others to “restore” a sense of power in their lives. We often see it with mass shooters – one of the points that comes out is either abuse, neglect, or dysfunction in the childhood home.



Strengthen economic supports to families

- Strengthening household financial security
- Family-friendly work policies



Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting

- Public engagement and enhancement campaigns
- Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment



Provide quality care and education early in life

- Preschool enrichment with family engagement
- Improved quality of child care through licensing and accreditation



Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development

- Early childhood home visitation
- Parenting skill and family relationship approaches



Intervene to lessen harms and prevent future risk

- Enhanced primary care
- Behavioral parent training programs
- Treatment to lessen harms of abuse and neglect exposure
- Treatment to prevent problem behavior and later involvement in violence

every child



PARENT EDUCATION PARENT SUPPORT (PEPS)



WHAT IS PEPS?

12-week parenting program designed to strengthen families by assisting parents in developing positive and caring relationships with their children.

Groups meet weekly for two hours each weekly session with no fee for participation. Groups meet via Zoom to help with the travel expenses for parents.

WHO DOES PEPS HELP?

PEPS provides family strengthening strategies to families (parents, grandparents, guardians, foster parents, or caregivers). It is also designed to help families identified as “at risk” for abuse and neglect. *Ultimately, PEPS is designed to help children live in safer, happier, loving homes where they can grow and thrive.*

WHO LEADS PEPS?

Groups are facilitated by trained staff who use the adult learning theory to actively engage parents in all sessions. Since PEPS was established in 2002, just over 5464 participants have been enrolled. Groups have met in **Florence, Darlington, Marion, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon and Williamsburg Counties.**

DESCRIPTION

The first hour is devoted to educating parents on topics designed to increase their knowledge and reduce their stress. Topics include self-care, communication skills, ACES, parenting styles, protective factors, child development (ages and stages), child maltreatment, domestic violence, and mental health, to name a few.

The second hour is a parent support group based on the Parents Anonymous model of parents helping other parents through their shared experiences.

CURRICULA

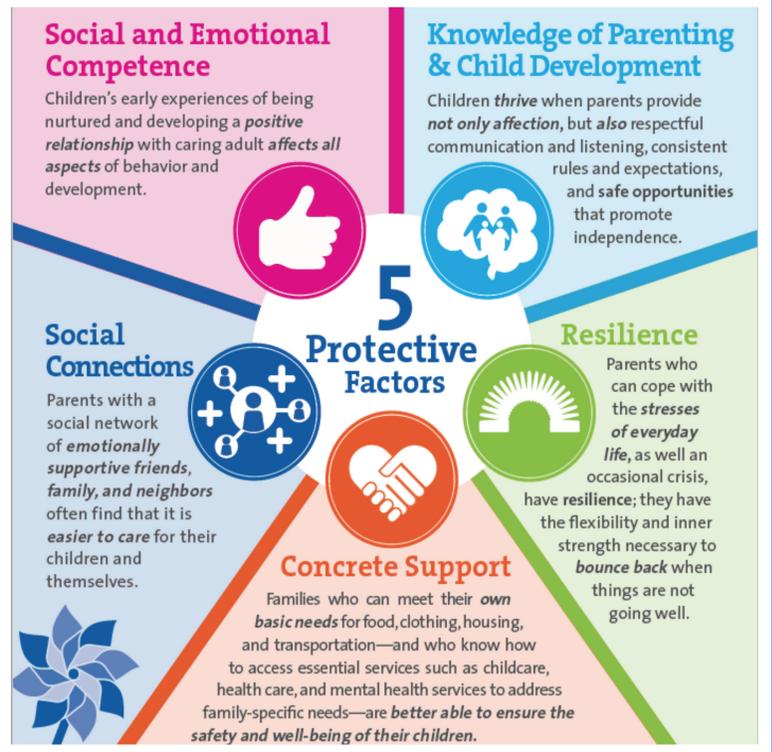
The PEPS facilitators use two curricula in the program: “Strengthening Families” and “Nurturing Parenting.” Both are evidence-based and are used widely throughout the US. Each lesson comes with lesson plans that include goals, objectives, discussion topics, interactive activities and feedback forms.

ONGOING PARTICIPATION

After completing the 12-weeks, participants receive a certificate of completion. They are encouraged to continue their participation in the support group portion of each meeting as it helps them to work through problems they may have encountered as well as help other parents through issues they have already experienced.

PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Communities can also promote a variety of protective factors for children. Protective factors are conditions or attributes of individuals, families, communities, or society that promote well-being and reduce the risk for negative outcomes, including the long-term consequences discussed in this newsletter. They can “Buffer” the effects of child maltreatment. Research shows the following are protective factors for victims of child maltreatment:





Pee Dee Coalition
P.O. Box 1351
Florence, SC 29503-1351

Nonprofit Organization
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 Florence, SC
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Florence County Sexual Assault and Family Violence Center
 220 S. Irby Street
 Florence
843-669-4694

Emergency Safe House
843-669-4694

Durant Children's Center
 226 S. Irby Street
 Florence
843-664-4357

Durant Children's Center 3rd Circuit Satellite
 411 N. Salem Avenue
 Sumter
803-757-1570

Durant Children's Center 4th Circuit Satellite
 510 W. Carolina Avenue
 Hartsville
843-332-9299

Alternatives to Violence
 234 S. Dargan Street
 Florence
843-673-2008

Prevent Child Abuse Pee Dee (PCAPD)
 226 S. Irby Street
 Florence
843-664-4357

Rural Florence Satellite Center
 202 Kelley Street
 Lake City
843-374-5026

City of Darlington Satellite Center
 105 Orange Street
 Darlington
843-383-5534

Darlington County Satellite Center
 460 W. Carolina Avenue
 Hartsville
843-383-0240

Dillon County Satellite Center
 1101 Hwy. 301 North
 Dillon
843-774-0898

Chesterfield County Satellite Center
 339 N. Page Street
 Chesterfield
843-623-7364

Marion County Satellite Center
 1305 N. Main Street
 Marion
843-423-6568

Marlboro County Satellite Center
 108 Parsonage Street
 Bennettsville
843-479-0882

New Beginnings Transitional Shelter
 3615 Hickson Road
 Wallace
843-921-3167

Williamsburg County
 #2 Courthouse Square
 Kingstree
843-354-6481

MISSION

Pee Dee Coalition is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence, and child abuse and to the needs of victims.

PHILOSOPHY

It is the belief of Pee Dee Coalition that the reduction of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse is a community issue and concerns the total community – not only women, not only service providers – but all who value the basic human desire to be free from physical threat and harm.

VISION

Through the efforts of Pee Dee Coalition in its entirety, the region will be a safer, more compassionate community.

