



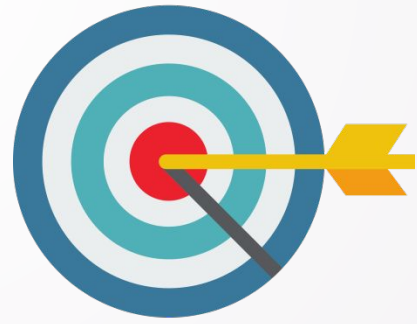
... Providing Services in southern Kane County, Kendall County and surrounding areas for Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

www.mutualground.org

- ❖ 24 hour emergency shelter and hotline
- ❖ Counseling individuals and families affected by sexual and domestic violence
 - ❖ Prevention Education
 - ❖ Hospital advocacy
 - ❖ Legal Advocacy

Sexual Violence Prevention Education

Elementary School Faculty and Staff Sexual
Violence Prevention In Service



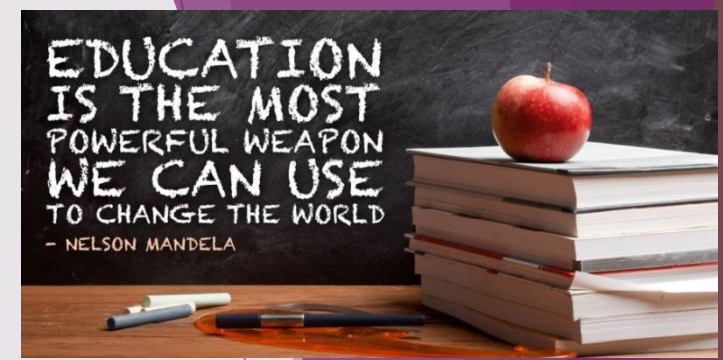
Objectives

- ❖ **Erin's Law:** Why sexual violence prevention programs are necessary
- ❖ **Mutual Ground Curriculum:** Program details
- ❖ **Collaboration:** How Teachers and MGI Prevention Educators will work together to provide quality remote learning
- ❖ **Abuse Disclosures:** How to handle student disclosures

Why Sexual Violence Prevention Programs Are Necessary?

- ❑ **Sexual abuse happens to people of all genders, races, religions & socioeconomic groups**
 - ❖ 1:4 girls and 1:13 boys will be victimized by their 18th birthday.
 - ❖ Median victim age is 9
 - ❖ When victim is under 18...
 - 39% of the time the abuser is a family member
 - 93% of offenders are known to victims
 - 67% of all sexual crimes happen to children under 17
- ❑ **Parents don't always teach this topic to their children**
 - ❖ Only 30% of parents report teaching children about sexual violence

Erin's Law Requires



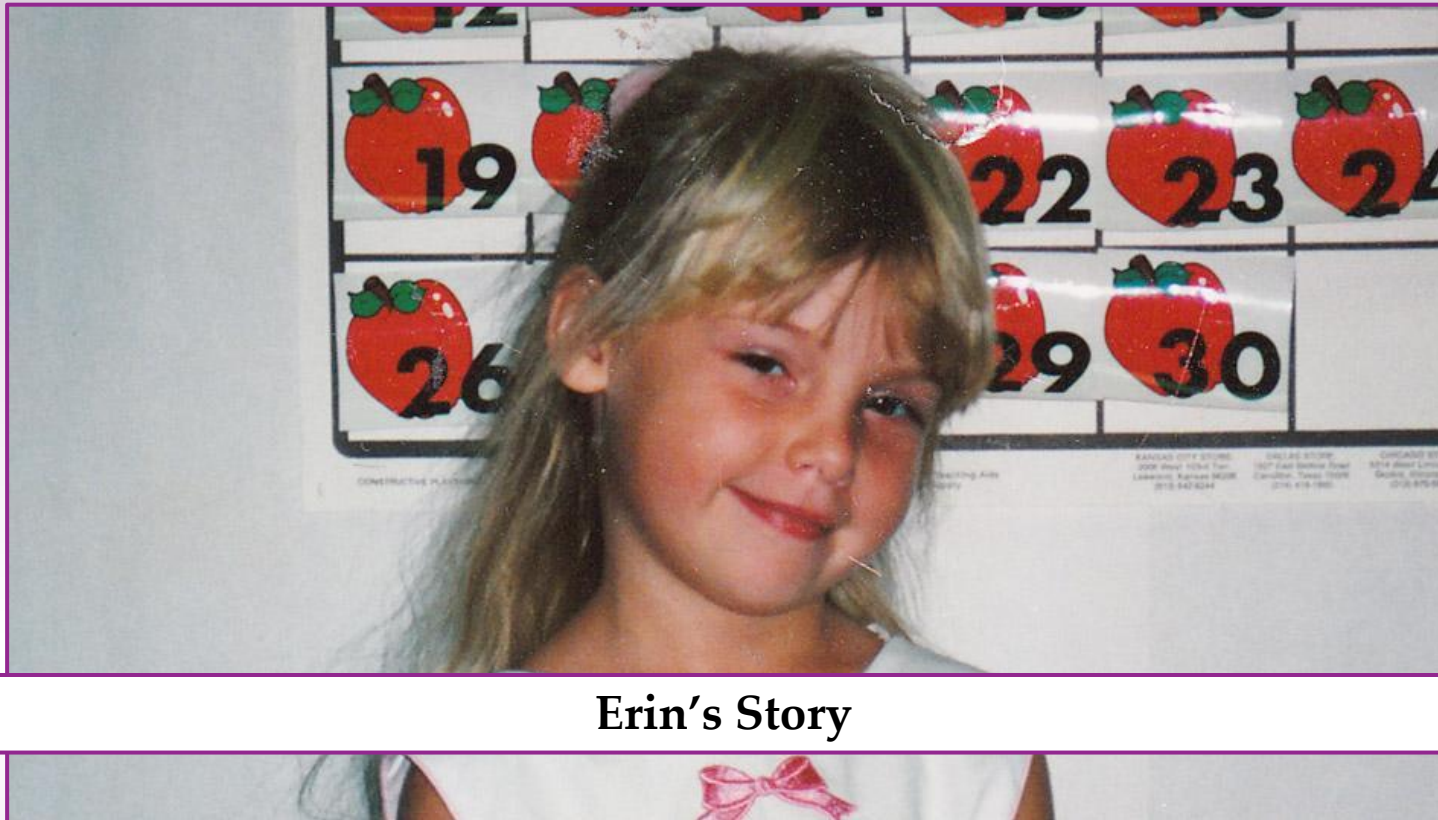
Children...

- ❖ Grades PreK-12 in public schools, receive education on sexual abuse prevention through age appropriate curriculum
- ❖ Provide children the tools to **Recognize, Refuse and Report** sexual violence
- ❖ Provide **children** with the tools to speak up and tell someone about sexual violence rather than keep it a secret
- ❖ Educate **children** on safe touch vs. unsafe touch and safe secrets vs. unsafe secrets

Parents and Educators...

- ❖ **Educators** will be trained on the prevention of sexual violence
- ❖ **Parents** will be provided information on characteristics of offenders, grooming behaviors and how to discuss this topic with their children

Why Do We Do Our Programs?



Erin's Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcISu0q4qUA>

Goal 1: Educate

Who owns your body?

- You Do!

Identify Types of Touch:

- Safe
- Unsafe
- Uncomfortable

Identify Private Parts:

- The parts of your body covered by your swimsuit
- Mouth

Safety Rule:

- No one should touch your private parts except to keep you clean and healthy

Goal 2: Inform

Explain what to do if someone breaks the safety rule:
Safety Plan!

- Yell “NO”
- Get to a safe place
- Tell Trusted Adult

Who should they tell?

What to do if that person doesn't listen to them...
Keep Telling!

Secrets and Grooming

Goal 3: Empower

Give them permission to own their body.

Give them permission to say “NO!” to touches that make them feel unsafe/uncomfortable, and TELL someone.

Help them set respectful boundaries

Start the conversation early and review the safety rule often.

Curriculum Format

- ❖ Preschool/Kindergarten
- ❖ First Grade
- ❖ Second Grade
- ❖ Third Grade
- ❖ Fourth Grade
- ❖ Fifth Grade

What is Child Sexual Abuse?

- ▶ Molestation-someone touching a child's private parts or forcing child to touch theirs
- ▶ Sexual Assault (Rape)-forced penetration
- ▶ Child pornography
- ▶ Grooming
- ▶ Commercial sexual exploitation of children

Signs that a child may have been sexually abused

Physical Signs

- ❖ Sexually transmitted infections
- ❖ Bruising or swelling near the genital area
- ❖ Broken bones/repeated unusual injuries
- ❖ Difficulty in walking or sitting

Behavioral Signs

- ❖ Excessive talk about or knowledge of sexual topics
- ❖ Regressive behavior
- ❖ Sexual behavior that is inappropriate for the child's age

Emotional Signs

- ❖ Self-harming behaviors
- ❖ Excessive worry or fearfulness
- ❖ Loss or decrease interest in school, activities and friends

What you should do if a child discloses...

- ❖ Remain Calm
- ❖ Praise the child by reassuring them they did the right thing by telling
- ❖ Do not interrogate the child for information or ask leading questions
- ❖ Make the child as comfortable as possible
- ❖ Be patient
- ❖ Reassure the child that it is not their fault
- ❖ Respect confidentiality
- ❖ Do not disclose your own abuse to the child
- ❖ Report to DCFS/Police
- ❖ Recommend resources for counseling



The Role of a Mandated Reporter

- ❖ Mandated Reporters- All School Staff
- ❖ Mandated reporters are **required** to report suspected child abuse or neglect **immediately** when they have “**reasonable cause to believe**” that a child known to them in their professional or official capacity may be an abused or neglected child. (325 ILCS 5/4)
- ❖ Reports must be confirmed in writing (CANTS form) to the local investigation unit within 48 hours of the Hotline call.
- ❖ Telling your social worker/ principal does not relieve you of the duty to call DCFS. The person who took the disclosure should call DCFS.
- ❖ No one within your employment setting is permitted to forbid you from calling.
- ❖ DCFS Hotline is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days a year. **1-800-252-2873 (1-800-25-ABUSE)**

What should be reported...

- ❖ **Any time a child reports sexual violence- which includes:**
 - ❖ someone touching their private parts
 - ❖ the child touching someone else's private parts
 - ❖ sexual photos/ texts/videos
 - ❖ being asked to watch pornography
 - ❖ being asked to watch sexual activity
 - ❖ being told to engage in sexual activity with another person/child
 - ❖ A child states that another child has been abusing them
 - ❖ An adult discloses that he or she has abused a child
 - ❖ A child being coerced to touch someone else

Responding to abuse during the Pandemic (DCFS recommendations)



- ❖ DCFS continues to operate its Hotline and carry out investigations throughout this pandemic.
- ❖ According to DCFS, educators contact DCFS more than any other group of mandated reporters. It is important to continue to be mindful of children's safety and well-being even though you may not have in-person contact with your students.
- ❖ See something, do something. Even in the virtual classroom, if you hear something concerning or you observe what appears to be an injury, you should report that to the hotline. 1-800-25-ABUSE. For non emergency reports you can also use their online reporting system at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/safekids/reporting>.

https://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/brighterfutures/healthy/Documents/COVID-19_Letter_to_Educators_051520.pdf



Responding to abuse during the Pandemic (DCFS recommendations)

- ❖ DCFS also recommends teachers come up with a signal students can use during virtual meetings that requests a 1:1 conversation with the teacher. Examples could be holding up a post-it note or saying a specific word
- ❖ If you have not heard from a student, reach out individually and ask how things are going at home.
- ❖ Be specifically aware of at-risk populations. LGBTQ+ youth and those with developmental disabilities are at higher risk as they may not be able to verbally communicate abuse or protect themselves.

Things to look out for during Remote Learning...



- ❖ Students not completing their homework.
- ❖ A student who suddenly declines in school performance.
- ❖ During virtual meetings, look for any bruising or facial injury.
- ❖ Listen for yelling in a child's home or other concerning actions that may be taking place in the background.
- ❖ During the pandemic children are likely to be online more; encourage students to tell an adult if they notice friends disclosing anything on social media that seems concerning.
- ❖ LGBTQ+ youth are at higher risk of abuse and neglect as a result of how people respond to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. Teachers may want to check in with LGBTQ + students.

Collaboration: How Teachers and MGI Prevention Educators will work together to provide quality remote learning...



- ❖ Teachers will be contacted no less than 10 days prior to their presentation to:
 - Troubleshoot technology issues
 - Discuss guidelines to be used throughout the presentation
 - Discuss procedures used to address disclosures

For more information, please review the **Teacher Information** section of our website:

www.mutualgroundlearning.com

Questions about your school's programming?

Contact Tina Bleakley, Prevention Education Department Manager at 630-897-0084 or tbleakley@mutualground.org

