



CREATING AWARENESS & OUTREACH: *Schools Responding to Child Abuse*

Help Create Awareness With The Lake County Children's Advocacy Center

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH. Following is a guide for school personnel. There are many ways to raise awareness on this widespread problem. The following ideas are just a few of the ways your school can address potential dangers, provide training and establish relationships with your students on child abuse and prevention.

- ✦ Create a school protocol to enhance child well-being
 - Establish clear roles and responsibilities
 - Provide consistent school responses
 - Define the issue and outline training procedures
 - Work with the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center to understand the Lake County protocol
- ✦ Develop outreach programs
 - Assign youth to develop strategies and outline goals for advocating and creating awareness on the topic
 - Create youth peer-to-peer groups
 - Create victim support groups to help understand that they are not alone
 - Establish awareness clubs to promote healthy relationships
- ✦ Create an evaluation of abuse
 - Students who use health services and/or counseling programs can be given a questionnaire/screening tool to evaluate needs/problems
 - Establish support services
 - Promote classroom discussions by using confidential surveys as a tool
 - Ask school nurse to have brochures/safety cards on hand for distribution
(Call the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center for resources 847-377-3155)
- ✦ Have resources available for your students
 - Display Blue Kids posters and table tents in main areas
 - Have safety cards in bathrooms lounges, etc.
 - Have books on the topic in your school library
 - Participate in the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center Blue Kids Program
- ✦ Make public service announcements on child abuse and prevention
 - Identify the problem
 - Provide statistics
 - Explain where to go for help
 - Refer to school resources
 - Advocate for policies, legislation and programming
- ✦ Make awareness of the topic a priority in education
 - Teach about abuse in health class, P.E., social studies, etc.
 - Hang posters at your school or on community bulletin boards
 - Encourage youth to participate in the Lake County State's Attorney's Office Young Ambassador Board
- ✦ Provide links to resources on school website
 - Allow peer/student involvement in creation of website

- ✦ Have resources in school library during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April
 - Distribute flyers/abuse materials
 - Organize school assembly
 - Have daily announcement/activity
 - Suggest recommended outlets/encourage healthy relationships
 - Bring in speakers
 - Have fundraiser to support local organization that help youth

- ✦ Offer parent meetings/parent awareness outreach
 - Distribute flyers/abuse materials
 - Provide breakfast sessions
 - Create opportunities for evening conversations with students, teachers and parents
 - Provide resources at parent/teacher conferences

- ✦ Educate school personnel on child abuse policy and procedures in Lake County
 - Require personnel to be familiar with the Lake County protocol
 - Encourage/require curriculum on topics that coincide with the Social Emotional Learning Standards/Erins Law
 - Contact the Lake County Children’s Advocacy Center to learn about available speakers

If your school needs additional materials or assistance, please feel free to contact:

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 123 N. O’Plaine Road • Gurnee, IL 60031
 847-377-3155

For more information and/or ideas,
 visit our website:

www.friendsoflccac.org

