



creating Awareness & Outreach

SCHOOLS RESPONDING TO CHILD ABUSE

PAGE 1

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH... HELP CREATE AWARENESS WITH THE LAKE COUNTY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

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

- Have safety cards in bathrooms, lounges, study halls, hallways etc
- Have books available in your library regarding the topic
- Have resources available on your school website; share applicable website links
- Provide education throughout the year promoting a healthy dialogue, outlet, information and supports



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



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PAGE 2



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 volunteer at the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center
- Provide links to resources on school website
- Allow peer/student involvement in creation of website



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 Carrie Wings at CWings@lakecountyiil.gov

For more information, call (847)377-3155
or visit our website:
www.friendsoflccac.org

