



FOXBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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(508) 543-1655
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Current estimates reveal that as many as 40 million Americans may have experienced sexual abuse during childhood. Sexual abuse affects up to one-third of all girls and up to one-sixth of all boys. Most cases of sexual abuse involve a person known to the child. Usually a child sexual abuse pattern entails repeated offenses over a period of time by a heterosexual male, and is characterized by secrecy, intimidation, or bribery, rather than force. Thus, it is apparent that young children need the means by which to recognize sexual abuse before it occurs and learn ways for self-protection from this potentially devastating behavior.

We are beginning a lesson in Safe/Unsafe Touches in grade 4. Your child and his or her classmates will learn important information that may greatly help them with this serious societal problem. As with all subjects, children are more likely to learn and practice health and safety behaviours when they receive consistent messages at home and at school. Here are some ideas for how you can talk to your son or daughter about child sexual abuse:

- Teach your child that it is “against the rules” for adults to act in a sexual way with them, and use examples.
- Teach them what parts of their bodies others should not touch.
- Be sure to mention that the abuser might be an adult friend, family member, or older youth.
- Teach them not to give out personal information while using the Internet, including email addresses, home addresses, and phone numbers.
- Start early and talk often. Use everyday opportunities to talk about sexual abuse.
- Be proactive. If a child seems uncomfortable, or resistant to being with a particular adult, ask why.

The curriculum used in class will be available for you to preview at <https://bit.ly/2P6c7MN>. If you have any questions or you would like more information, please contact your child’s building principal or guidance counselor. If you **DO NOT** want your child to participate please complete the form below and return it to your child’s principal.

We have provided some resources below if you would like to continue the discussion on ‘Safe Touch’ at home. Thank you for helping with this important health lesson.

Sincerely,

Amy Berdos, Ed.D.

Amy Berdos, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Alison Mello, Ed.D.

Alison Mello, Ed. D.
Assistant Superintendent

Janelle Erskine

Janelle Erskine
K-12 Wellness Department Head

Books:

Mia’s Secret By Peter Ledwon
Not in Room 204 By Shannon Riggs
No More Secrets For Me By Oralee Wachter

Resources used in class:

Websites:

<https://www.d21.org/education/5-steps/step-3/>
<https://www.schoolcounselingbyheart.com/2014/04/15/fourth-grade-lessons-for-sexual-abuse-prevention/>
<http://www.kidpower.org>



I do not want my child, _____, to participate in the Safe/Unsafe Touches Unit. I understand that he/she will not be allowed to remain in the classroom while the curriculum is being taught, and that he/she will receive alternative lessons deemed appropriate by the school.

School: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____