



## Prevention Messages for Children

Based on research, parents should teach the following sexual abuse prevention concepts at each of the following ages.

### Pre-K and Kindergarten Age

- Teach about personal boundaries and the concept of privacy by modeling behavior.
- Teach children about private parts (parts of the body covered by a bathing suit).
- Explain that no one should touch the private parts of their bodies except a doctor or parent to help keep them clean and safe.
- Teach children If someone touches their private parts they should tell you or an adult right away and keep telling until someone believes them.

### Elementary School

- Continue to discuss privacy and that private parts are private.
- Children can be taught topics that require more maturity. These can include anatomy, reproduction and impending changes that will come with puberty.
- Monitor children's understanding of topics related to sexuality.
- Take advantage of teachable moments and find opportunities to discuss topics of interest to the child.

### Middle and High School Age

- This is the perfect time for parents to discuss family values, and religious and moral beliefs around relationships.



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- Discussions should continue to emphasize body ownership, respectful relationships, and avoiding harmful situations and self-respect.
- Provide information about the changes that come with puberty.