



Ed and Nancy Hanenburg
**Children's
Advocacy Center**
abuse prevention & intervention

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

The Children's Advocacy Center of Ottawa County offers the body safety program, **Kids Have Rights**, to students in kindergarten through 4th grade. This program meets the requirements outlined in Erin's Law (signed into law January 2013) for Michigan elementary students. The **Kids Have Rights** curriculum incorporates information on:

- The "Rights" all kids have to keep themselves safe. For example: the right to feel safe.
- Identifying the safe adults in a child's life they can go to if they need help.
- Recognizing different kinds of touches. For example: hugs and high fives.

The **Kids Have Rights** material is presented in an age appropriate and non-threatening way that is empowering for children.

- ✓ **Kindergarten and 1st grade** students participate in a 30-minute program that combines movement with learning. They identify safe adults in their lives and three different kinds of touches.
- ✓ **2nd graders** watch a 3-minute video about the six "rights" kids have, complete an activity about safe adults, as well as discuss in further detail the three different kinds of touches.
- ✓ **3rd grade** students also watch the 3-minute video about the six "rights", complete an activity about safe adults, and watch a 10-minute video followed by a discussion about the stories they watch.
- ✓ Bringing all the components they have learned together, **4th grade students** review the information they have previously been taught, discuss their safe adults, and view a 5-minute video followed by a discussion about the story they watch, pointing out key ideas related to the key concepts of the curriculum.

Following the in class presentation, your child will bring home a **Kids Have Rights** brochure with information on body safety and tips on ways to continue this important conversation.

There will also be three worksheets your child will bring home each additional week following their classroom presentation to help reinforce the concepts taught. Please review these worksheets with your child, read the information on the back and complete the parent/child activity.

You are welcome to attend the presentation with your child! Please contact the school to receive the date and time of the presentation, and to let them know you plan to attend.

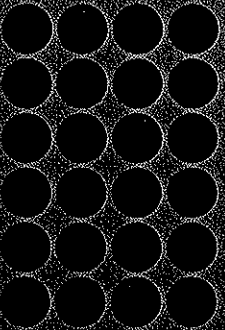
If you have any questions, please contact Amy Dalman, Director of Community Education at the Children's Advocacy Center of Ottawa County, at 616-393-6123 or adalman@cac-ottawa.org.

Together, we can protect our children and help prevent child abuse!

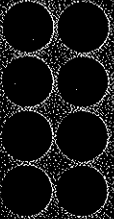
Before age 18:



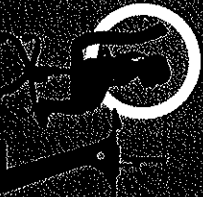
1 in 7 girls
is sexually abused.



1 in 25 boys
is sexually abused.



1 in 9 children over the age
of 10 is solicited sexually online.

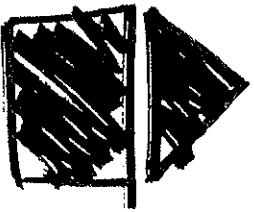


Source: darknessislight.org

**Kids
have
rights**

Kids Have Rights is a series of developmentally appropriate, child-friendly, body-safety lessons for students in kindergarten through 4th grade, their parents, and school community.

Our mission is to provide child centered prevention, advocacy, and team intervention in investigation, assessment, and treatment of child sexual abuse inclusive of all children and families in Ottawa County.



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**Kids
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...
Educating and empowering children
and adults to recognize, prevent
and stop child sexual abuse.

A program of the



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Protecting Your Children

Knowing the Facts

Child sexual abuse is a personal, community, and societal crisis that does not discriminate across lines of income, race, ethnicity, or religion. The number one risk factor for being the victim of child sexual abuse is simply being a child.

The greatest risk to your child is from people they know and often know well. People who abuse children are often family and friends, and they likely have worked very hard to gain your trust and the trust of your child. They count on your discomfort or reluctance to speak with your child about body safety to keep their secret safe. Prove them wrong. Kids Have Rights can help.

Talking to Your Child

From a very early age, teach your child the correct names for the parts of their body, including private parts.

Because your child has participated in a Kids Have Rights lesson, you will receive accompanying worksheets to guide your discussions on body safety.

Listening to Your Child

After participating in a Kids Have Rights lesson, your child has the language to communicate with you about giving and receiving different touches and how those touches make them feel. Engage with them in those discussions. Honor their feelings and encourage sharing – always.

Children also communicate by showing rather than telling. Paying attention to possible warning signs and addressing them appropriately and quickly can help keep your child safe. Here are a few:

- Sleeping problems
- Regressing to younger behaviors
- Mood swings such as anger, fear, insecurity, or withdrawal
- Developing new or unusual fears of certain people or places

For more information visit our website or call us. Consider Kids Have Rights a member of your community in keeping your child safe.

Reporting Child Sexual Abuse

If you suspect abuse or a child shares with you that abuse has occurred, report it to Child Protective Services at 1.855.444.3911

If you notice sexualized behaviors from a child that are concerning to you, please call the Children's Advocacy Center at 616.393.6123.

Responding to Your Child

A child who has received a touch that confuses or frightens them and tells you is honoring you with their trust. By sharing their feelings with you, they are telling you that they are relying on you to listen to them, believe them, and help them. They need to hear:

- I am listening.
 - I am here for you.
 - I believe you.
 - I am proud of you for telling me.
 - You are brave for telling me.
 - I know how to help you.
-

Kids Have Rights

has been named a model for body safety prevention education by the Governor's Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and the Michigan Chapter of the National Children's Alliance. Kids Have Rights is committed to collaborating with our community to ensure that all children stay safe. Please feel free to call or email us if we can guide or assist you.

