

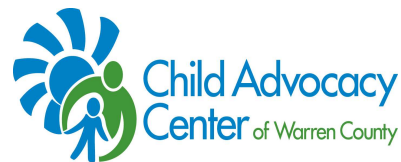
Every Child Needs an Advocate

The Child Advocacy Center of Warren County is a winning solution for abused children, providing comprehensive services in one community-based facility. Necessary medical, emotional, legal, investigative and victim advocacy services exist in one child-friendly location, ensuring that children are not further victimized by the systems intended to protect them.

**You can find more information
by contacting:**

Prevent Child Abuse America
200 S. Michigan Avenue, 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-2404
Phone: 312-663-3520
Fax: 312-939-8962
www.preventchildabuse.org

Darkness To Light
7 Radcliffe Street
Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29403
843.965.5444
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100 Campus Loop Rd., Suite A
Franklin, OH 45005

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How Do I Educate My Child About Sexual Abuse?

100 Campus Loop Road,
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Current statistics state that 1 out of every 4 girls and 1 out of 6 boys are sexually assaulted before the age of 18. Given these facts, a child we know will very likely be victimized. However, we want to believe that our own children will not be affected.

Perhaps the most important child sexual abuse prevention strategy for parents is good communication with your children. Sexual abuse has many forms. It can be so subtle that a child may not know what is happening, just that he or she is uncomfortable.

Below are some tips that may help parents prevent or detect abuse:

- Talk to children every day about their contacts with others. Ask them about their activities and their feelings.
- Do not "interrogate" your child, but instead create an everyday environment where communication is comfortable and natural.
- Teach your children to not keep secrets from you. Tell your children they can always tell you anything no matter what anyone else tells them.

- If your child starts to disclose sexual abuse, remain calm and ask questions such as, "Can you tell me more about that?"
- Take some time to teach your child the correct names for their body parts and which ones are their "private parts."
- Teach your child how to say "NO" to someone who touched him or her inappropriately.
- If a person is making them feel "funny", "uncomfortable", "bad", etc., teach your child to tell someone they trust.
- Listen seriously and sensitively to what your child says.
- Explain to your child that his or her body belongs to them alone.
- Be involved in your child's activities.
- Remember: Children are most often sexually abused by someone in their family or by someone they know and trust.



Children often "tell" about being sexually abused without specific words. Sometimes kids tell about abuse through changes in their behavior. Many kids cannot explain what is happening to them, but they can "show" through their behavior that something is wrong.

Some behavioral indicators may include:

- New fears of persons or places
- Sexual play/language beyond what is considered normal
- Unusual interest in or avoidance of all things of sexual nature
- Sleeping problems or nightmares
- Depression or withdrawal from friends/family
- Fear that there is something wrong with their genital area
- Decrease in academic performance/running away
- Unusual aggressiveness
- Suicidal behaviors or other severe behavior changes