



COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200

# Erin's Law Personal Safety Lessons

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The Northwest Center Against Sexual Abuse

Inspiring in Everyone a Passion to Excel

# Outline

- What is Erin's Law?
- What you should know about child sexual abuse
- Staff training
- Lessons for students
- Questions



# Erin's Law

Erin's Law is named after childhood sexual assault survivor, author, speaker and activist Erin Merryn.

After Erin introduced the legislation in her home state of Illinois, the bill was named "Erin's Law" after her by legislators and it has caught on nationwide.

[Breaking the Silence PSA](#)



# Erin's Law

“**Erin's Law**” requires that all public schools in each state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches:

1. Students in grades preK – 12th grade, age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult
2. School personnel all about child sexual abuse
3. Parents & guardians the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families



# Erin's testimony



# What is sexual abuse?

It can be physical or can include the following:

- Exposing or touching a child's private parts or making the child expose or touch someone else's private parts
- Making a child watch or listen to sexual acts or showing them pornography
- Inappropriately watching a child dress or use the bathroom
- Talking to a child in sexually explicit ways in person, by phone, by text, or on the internet



# What do we know about Sexual Abuse?

- It's estimated that there are 42 million survivors of sexual abuse in the United States--3 million of those are still children
- 93% of the time, the child knows the abuser
- 9 out of 10 victims never disclose



# Misconceptions about Sexual Abuse.

- Children aren't really in danger
- Educating children puts ideas in their heads
- Educating children will scare them
- Personal body safety includes lessons on sex education
- My child is too young to learn about personal body safety
- Kids make this stuff up





# Signs and Symptoms to look for:

## Young children may:

- Exhibit regressive behavior
  - Loss of speech, sucking thumb, bed-wetting, soiling, fecal smearing
- Resist removing clothes at appropriate times
- Ask other children to behave sexually or play sexual games
- Show knowledge not typical of a young child
- Mimic adult-like sexual behaviors with toys
- Be clingy or show separation anxiety
- Be irritable or withdrawn
- Have sleep difficulties
- Have tantrums that are frequent and last 15 minutes or longer



# Signs and Symptoms to look for:

- Older children may:
  - Exhibit poor hygiene
  - Act out sexually
  - Exhibit eating disorders
  - Abuse substances
  - Run away
  - Be depressed and withdraw socially
  - Attempt suicide or express suicidal ideation
  - Engage in other risky behaviors
  - Show a sudden change in behavior



# What to do if my child discloses?

## **PLEASE DO NOT:**

- Express shock, disgust, anger, or panic
- Investigate, probe or ask questions
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## **PLEASE DO:**

- Let them tell you.
- Let them know they were right to come forward.
- Let them know it was not their fault.
- Let them know you will get someone to help them immediately.
- Acknowledge any and all feelings they have.
- Give them options and encourage them to make their own decisions.



# Committee for Children Video



# Immediate Action Plan

- Call the police no matter who it is
- Take the child to the hospital
- Call DCFS
  - 1-800-25-ABUSE/1-800-252-2873



# District Staff Training

All district certified staff and teaching assistants are trained regarding signs and symptoms of child sexual abuse.



# District wide Student Lessons

- This school year, District 200 will focus on Early Childhood through Third grade lessons.
- Parents will receive notification prior to lessons being delivered at their child's school



# District wide lessons

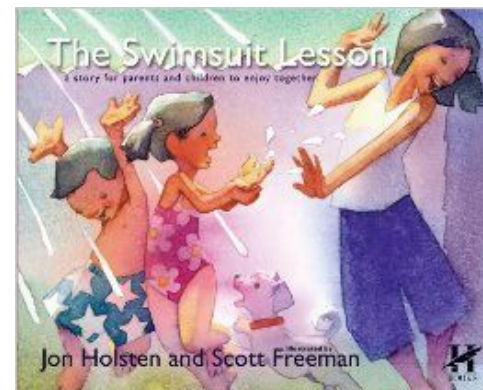
- Lessons were adapted from the Committee for Children, Child Protection Unit.





# Early Childhood and Kindergarten Lessons

- **Key Concepts**
- Safety Rules
- Safe / Unsafe touches
- The Touching Rules- Three Ways to Stay Safe
- Private body parts are parts of your body covered by swimsuits.



# First Grade Lesson

- **Key Concepts**
- Safety Rules
- Safe / Unsafe touches
- Unwanted touches
- The Touching Rule- Three Ways to Stay Safe.  
Applying Refusing Skill.
- Private body parts are parts of your body covered by swimsuits.



# Second and Third Grade Lessons

- **Key Concepts**
- Safety Rules
- Safe / Unsafe touches
- Unwanted touches
- The Touching Rule- Three Ways to Stay Safe.  
Applying Reporting Skill.
- Private body parts are parts of your body covered by swimsuits.
- Never keep secrets rule



# Questions?

If you have questions after tonight's presentation, you can reach out to the social worker, school psychologist, nurse, or administrators at your child's school.



# Resources

- <http://erinslaw.org>
- <http://www.erinslawillinois.org>
- <http://www.ywcachicago.org>
- <http://www.icasa.org>
- <http://www.ascasupport.org>
- <http://www.d2l.org>



We hope that you found today's presentation informative but you may find that it impacted you in a personal way.

Call Darkness to Light at 1-866-367-5444 or the YWCA Crisis line at 630-971-3927 for help and for resources.



Information in this presentation was also taken from Darkness to Light, the Children's Advocacy Center of DuPage County and the Erin's Law website.

