Did you know…?

About 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before they turn 18. 1

At least 40% of those whose victims are under age 12 are teenagers. 2

Here are some things you can do to help protect children…

Engage in Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Prevention

- Parents are the right people to impart CSA information to their children.
- Knowledge about CSA helps protect children. Lack of knowledge leaves children vulnerable. 3
- Parents can influence their child’s knowledge and values.
- Parents can educate their children and teach them the facts.
- Parents have more influence on children’s decisions about sex than the children’s friends. 4
- Begin talking to children at an early age, before children are at risk of victimization. 5
- Repeat the message often with children. 6
- Keep discussions developmentally appropriate, with an awareness of normal behaviors.
- Promote healthy sexuality by teaching respect and value of body and gender. 6
- Teach children correct names for body parts, to reduce children’s vulnerability. 7
- Establish touching boundaries so children understand they can say “no” to unwanted touch. 7
- Go beyond “stranger danger” because only 10% of perpetrators are strangers. 8
- Establish privacy rules in the home and away from home.
- Give children permission to tell about anything happening to them.
- Talk about secrets/tricks/threats or other means a perpetrator may use to keep children from telling about abuse. 8

For more information about how you can help prevent child sexual abuse visit the National Children’s Advocacy Center’s website (www.nationalcac.org) or call 256-533-KIDS.
References


For more information about how you can help prevent child sexual abuse visit the National Children’s Advocacy Center’s website (www.nationalcac.org) or call 256-533-KIDS.