

Schools & CSA Prevention/Intervention



Recently, someone posted a link on SpeakingOut's Facebook page that caught my eye. The article is called "The Role of Schools in Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention. ERIC Digest Series Number 61" and can be found at <http://www.ericdigests.org/pre-9219/sexual.htm>. Although an old article, I found some of the information quite helpful and should be read by all Teachers and School Personnel. For example... "The school is the one social institution outside the family with which nearly all children have consistent, ongoing contact. Therefore, it is particularly well-suited for identifying endangered children, including those who are being sexually maltreated."

There is a section in the article called "What Are Some Potential Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse?". It reads "Specific signs that MAY indicate sexual abuse include regressive behaviors such as thumb-sucking, enuresis (bed wetting), and nightmares; sleep disturbances; persistent, inappropriate sexual play with self, peers, or toys; knowledge of sexual behavior (often evident in drawings) that is advanced for the child's age; poor peer relationships; overly compliant behavior; acting-out behavior such as delinquency or aggression (often seen in children who attempted to get help but received none); pseudo-mature behavior; school-related difficulties including an inability to concentrate, faltering school performance, reluctance to change clothes for gym class or to participate in physical activities, and arriving at school early or staying late; running away from home; suicidal thoughts or attempts; and sexual promiscuity or avoidance of relationships (Deborah Tharinger and Ellen Vevier 1987)." More information can be found by viewing the full article.



Attention Teachers / School Personnel, unfortunately we live in a society where it is imperative for the safety of children (Kindergarten - 12th Grade) that each one of us is trained on the crime of child sexual abuse, to include what to look for. Please do not hesitate to contact SpeakingOut for assistance. We are more than happy to partner with you, provide information, training, etc.....for children's sake! ~Susan Suafoa-Dinino, President/Founder, SpeakingOut against Child Sexual Abuse, Inc.; www.speakingout-csa.com

"Effective Victim Interviewing" (Recent Webinar)

On August 9th, Samantha Stewart of SpeakingOut attended a Free Webinar on "Effective Victim Interviewing" by EVAWI (End Violence Against Women International). Joanne Archambault is the Executive Director of EVAWI at www.evawintl.org. Read what Samantha has to say after attending the webinar...



"I had the pleasure of attending the "Effective Victim Interviewing" training webinar by EVAWI. They had an immense amount of information helpful to the individuals who work in law enforcement and the court systems to assist victims of assault through their traumatic experiences. They acknowledge numerous procedures and techniques that can be revised and improved to better aid with the processes that an individual experiences when disclosing their trauma.

What I found to be very interesting is how individuals who experience trauma are susceptible to a temporary amnesia. Because of this temporary amnesia, it is important that both the interviewing officer and the victim take in considerations for their timelines, memory, and effects it might have on the process.

Joanne Archambault discussed these timelines and how the officer(s) and victim(s) should approach the interview to gather the most preeminent information with the least distressing impact on the victim as possible. Before the first sleep period, a person will only be able to recall general characteristics. After the first sleep period, the individual's ability to remember the event(s) will increase from 50%-90%. An individual's ability to completely remember will not occur until after the second sleep period.

Adult and young adult survivors often contact SpeakingOut with their stories and experiences. We attended this webinar to acquire any information that would be helpful in assisting us to continuously support those survivors across the U.S., and learn new information for those yet to come forward. Overall, this training included constructive tools in which we can utilize within SpeakingOut in the fight to prevent, protect, and support victims of abuse."

Samantha Stewart, Officer / Secretary, SpeakingOut against Child Sexual Abuse, Inc.