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 thumbsucking, 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