

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is time again for Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center to teach the Erin's Law lesson. Erin's Law is the yearly presentation to help bring sexual abuse/sexual assault prevention awareness to all public-school students. The Illinois mandated law covers preschool - 12th grade. Part of the presentation will include information on safe touch/unsafe touch, safe/unsafe secrets and who to tell if it happens to you or to someone you know. Each lesson is age appropriate for you child.

We will continue this year's theme with the understanding of CONSENT. The definition of consent is to give permission to another person to do something. Consent should be given before touching any other person to establish wanted touches and safe body boundaries between children and between children and adults.

Everyone needs to have healthy body boundaries. Erin's Law teaches that everyone should ask the person being touched his or her permission to touch them. This builds strong body boundaries and safe touches between people. So even when we want to tickle, hug or touch a child, a parent or guardian should ask permission before we tickle, hug, or touch any child, even our own child. It is also equally important for us to stop a touch when someone asks us to stop. If a person does not want us to tickle, hug or touch them anymore, then we need to immediately stop. Another purpose of Erin's Law is to teach parents healthy body boundaries with our children so our children will learn safe body boundaries. Last, Erin's Law teaches that no one should look at or touch a child's private area except to keep them clean and healthy.

All presentations are age appropriate and presented in a non-threatening way in an effort to empower children to know what to do when faced with an unsafe or an unwanted touch. There will be class worksheets and parent information for the students to bring home after the class.

The objectives of this presentation are as follows:

- Identify safe and unsafe touches or behavior by another person, even another child
- Know how to set healthy boundaries with friends and family using "I" statements
- Identify safe people to be able to confide, knowing the difference between safe and unsafe secrets, abuse is never the victim's fault and no deserves to be abused.

If you would like any more information about Erin's Law, please feel free to give me a call or email me. We look forward to meeting with your child's class. I am honored to bring these important messages to their school. You can also check out www.erinslaw.org.

Sincerely,

Lyndee Joe

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