

Age-Specific Examples for Sexual Violence Prevention

Infants and Toddlers (birth-3)

Consent and Boundaries

Ask your kid before you give them a hug, or kiss, or rub their back. Respect their response if they say no. (We've been there when that "no" stings your heart a bit!) This helps model respect for consent and helps them grow confidence in talking about what they need.

Empathy

Kids who are raised in a family where empathy is taught, modeled, and encouraged is important prevention work for bullying, sexual violence, and more! Researchers are clear that teaching kindness isn't about good manners.

It's about empathy: when you understand and care about how someone else is feeling.

Supporting Your Child's Feelings

Emotional health and feeling connected to others are two big ways we can help prevent all kinds of sexual violence, including child sexual abuse, in our communities. Here are a few things you can do to help your child feel connected and to help them grow into emotionally healthy people: help them name their feelings, thank them for telling you.

Body Safety

It is NEVER up to a child to prevent abuse. It's up to the adults in a child's life, and up to all of us as a community. People who abuse children may tell a child that the abuse is their secret and they can't tell anyone. As a result, secrets aren't safe. Surprises are different. You can explain that surprises are something exciting or fun.