



Talking With Kids About Sex Trafficking

Education is one of the best ways for kids to be protected against potential traffickers. Talking to kids about sex trafficking can be intimidating and they may not want to hear it, but it is vital in keeping them safe. Below are some discussion points to help guide the conversation and make it a little easier.

Cover The Basics

Defining Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is when force, fraud, or coercion is used to cause someone to perform a commercial sex act. Any commercial sex act with a minor is sex trafficking, regardless of their perceived willingness.

Victims

Victims come from every background. Sex trafficking is not limited to a certain race, gender, age, or economic class. There are several factors that increase a child's risk, including: truancy, homelessness, previous incarceration, frequent runaway, or history of sexual abuse.

Pimps/Traffickers

Pimps and Traffickers execute various recruitment and control tactics. Many recruit girls online, promising them love, affection, and wealth or coerce girls into "the life" through blackmail or sextortion. Others promise jobs that may seem too good to be true-no prior experience needed, no interview, and good pay.

By 8 Is Great

If kids are not learning about sex from their parents they will be getting the information elsewhere--friends, older teens, movies, online, etc. When having the talk a few things to cover are:

- Biological terms for body parts
- Characteristics of healthy relationships
- Respect in relationships
- Appropriate touch (anything covered by a bathing suit is private/personal)

Be Proactive

Initiate small conversations with your kids throughout everyday activities. Don't wait for them to come to you with questions and concerns. Strike up conversations in the kitchen, in the car, etc., and let them know that you are comfortable talking about such topics and want to have open dialogue with them. Voice your expectations in regards to online activity, phone use, dating, etc. Set clear boundaries.

Use Hypotheticals to Start the Conversation

“WHAT IF...”

- A cute boy or girl that you don't know sends you a friend request online?
- A man approaches you at the mall and tells you that you should model and asks for your cell number?
- Someone at school sends you a picture that makes you feel uncomfortable?
- A stranger asks to take a picture of you?
- You are offered a job that sounds too good to be true-no experience needed, don't need to interview, and good pay?
- Someone asks you for an inappropriate picture?