



TCKI

WEBINAR

**FUNDAMENTALS
OF TCK
CHILD SAFETY**

WITH KEVIN MCGEE

WE WILL BE STARTING SOON



Why talk about this?

1. Keep kids safe – that is the most important reason
2. Protect you and the ministry God has given you
3. Integrity & Responsibility



SENTINEL [SEN-TN-L]

A soldier stationed as a guard to challenge all comers and prevent a surprise attack.

to stand sentinel



Child sexual abuse includes:

- Any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or two minors, when one exerts power over the other.
- Forcing, coercing or persuading a child to engage in any kind of sexual act



Child sexual abuse includes:

Non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or internet



How serious is this issue?

- Nearly 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday
- About 1 in 7 girls and 1 in 25 boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18



How serious is this issue?

- Sobering perspective...this year about 400,000 babies born in the US alone will become victims of sexual abuse unless we do something to stop it!



Who are the abusers?

- 90% of children who are victims of sexual abuse know their abuser.
- 30% of sexually abused children are abused by someone in their family.
- As many as 40% are abused by older, more powerful children



“Typical” childhood curiosity/play usually:

- Occurs between children who play together regularly and know each other well
- Occurs between children of the same general age and physical size
- Is spontaneous and unplanned



Concerning behavior usually...

- Is clearly beyond the child's developmental stage
- Involves threats, force or aggression
- Involves children of widely different ages or abilities
- Provokes strong emotional reactions in the child – fear, anxiety, shame



Grooming

- A deliberate process by which offenders gradually initiate and maintain sexual relationships with victims in secrecy.
- Allows offenders to slowly overcome natural boundaries long before sexual abuse occurs
- Can be very misleading because the offender is well-known and respected/trusted



From Darkness To Light

STAGE	DESCRIPTION
TARGETING THE CHILD	Perpetrators may target and exploit a child's perceived vulnerabilities including emotional neediness, isolation, neglect, a chaotic home life, or lack of parental oversight, etc.
GAINING THE CHILD'S & CAREGIVER'S TRUST	Perpetrators work to gain the trust of parents/caregivers to lower suspicion and gain access to the child by providing seemingly warm yet calculated attention/support. The perpetrator gains the child's trust by gathering information about the child, getting to know their needs, and finding ways to fill those needs.
FILLING A NEED	Once the perpetrator begins to fill the child's needs, they may assume noticeably more importance in the child's life. Perpetrators utilize tactics such as gift giving, flattery, gifting money, and meeting other basic needs. Tactics may also include increased attention and affection towards the targeted child.



From Darkness To Light

STAGE

DESCRIPTION

ISOLATING THE CHILD

The perpetrator uses isolation tactics to reinforce their relationship with the child by creating situations in which they are alone together (babysitting, one-on-one coaching, “special” trips). The perpetrator may reinforce the relationship with the child by cultivating a sense that they love and understand the child in a way that others, even their parents, cannot. The adult can start to tell the child that no one cares for them the way they do, not even their parents.

SEXUALIZING THE RELATIONSHIP

Once emotional dependence and trust have been built, the perpetrator progressively sexualizes the relationship. This occurs through talking, pictures, and creating situations in which both are naked (swimming). The adult exploits the child’s natural curiosity and trust using stimulation to advance the sexual nature of the relationship.



From Darkness To Light

STAGE

DESCRIPTION

MAINTAINING CONTROL

Once sexual abuse is occurring, perpetrators commonly use secrecy, blame, and threats to maintain the child's participation and continued silence. In order to maintain control, perpetrators use emotional manipulation; they make the child believe they are the only person who can meet their emotional and material needs. The child may feel that the loss of the relationship, or the consequences of exposing it, will be more damaging and humiliating than continuing the unhealthy relationship.



As a parent or TCK Caregiver, it is important to be vigilant for any **RED FLAG BEHAVIOR**

- **Special attention/preference to a child**
 - Offenders are often seen pressing boundaries and breaking rules, but are rarely caught in the act of abusing a child. When you see a boundary being crossed, describe the inappropriate behavior or boundary violation to the person who has crossed it. Have family rules about when and how adults engage with your children.



As a parent or TCK Caregiver, it is important to be vigilant for any **RED FLAG BEHAVIOR**

- **Gift Giving**
 - Gift giving of any expense – large or small – is a grooming technique used to flatter children and their families into trusting the individual. Be vigilant. If another adult is overly interested in your child and family, consider this a red flag.



As a parent or TCK Caregiver, it is important to be vigilant for any **RED FLAG BEHAVIOR**

- **Touching or Hugging the Child**
 - Perpetrators will test the limits by starting to introduce touch into the relationship. They might put their arm around the child or asking for a hug to see how the child reacts. They may do this in front of other adults. If the caregiver does not intervene or object, and the child is uncomfortable, it can confuse the child on what type of touch is appropriate.



As a parent or TCK Caregiver, it is important to be vigilant for any **RED FLAG BEHAVIOR**

- **Sympathetic Listener**

- When grooming of a minor takes place, the offender will listen to the child when they are excited or upset. They will start to build barriers between the child and their parents and friends by telling them they care for them more than anyone else. Be open with your kids, let them know that even people they love can hurt them. Tell you children you are there for them and they can tell you anything. Be open and listen to them, even when the days are hectic.



As a parent or TCK Caregiver, it is important to be vigilant for any **RED FLAG BEHAVIOR**

- Offers to Help the Family
 - The individual will offer to do special things or help the caregivers to gain alone time with the child. Be sure to let other adults know that you do not approve of them being alone with your child without your permission or knowledge. Check-in regularly so other adults know you are watching.



Practical Ways to Protect Your Children from Sexual Abuse

1. Teach kids accurate names of body parts
2. Avoid focusing exclusively on “stranger danger.” Keep in mind that most children are abused by someone they know and trust
3. Teach children about body safety and the difference between “okay” and “not okay” touches.



Practical Ways to Protect Your Children from Sexual Abuse

4. Let children know that they have the right to make decisions about their bodies. Empower them to say no when they do not want to be touched, even in non-sexual ways (i.e. politely refusing hugs) and to say no to touching others.
5. Make sure children know that adults and other children never need help with their private body parts.
6. Teach children to take care of their own private parts (bathing, wiping after bathroom use etc) so they don't need others to help them.



Practical Ways to Protect Your Children from Sexual Abuse

7. Educate children about the difference between good secrets (like surprise birthday parties which are ok because they are not kept secret for long) and bad secrets (those that the child is supposed to keep secret forever, which are not ok.)
8. Trust your instincts...or better yet, trust the discernment given you by the Holy Spirit!



Practical Ways to Protect Your Children from Sexual Abuse

- Ask the schools they will be attending if they have child safety policies and ask to read them.
- Find out from friends' families what the set up will be for get togethers, play dates or overnights.
- Clearly articulate expectations for safety, transparency, and other family safety rules to your family members, co-workers, staff in your home, etc.
- Let babysitters know your expectations and that your kids have been trained in how to report issues of concern.



What if I suspect that my child might have been abused?

- **Here are some markers to note and consider carefully...**
 - Increase in nightmares and/or other sleeping difficulties
 - Withdrawn behavior
 - Angry outbursts (particularly if they are out of character for your child)
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Not wanting to be left alone with a particular person
 - Sexual knowledge, language, and/or behaviors that are inappropriate for the child's age



What if I suspect that my child might have been abused?

- **Children are often hesitant to disclose sexual abuse. Some of the reasons can be:**
 - Because the perpetrator has threatened bodily harm to the child or other members of the child's family
 - Fear of being removed from the home
 - Fear of not being believed
 - Shame or guilt
 - If the abuser is someone the child or the family cares about, the child may worry about getting that person in trouble.
 - The child may feel responsible and therefore be afraid they will get in trouble if they say anything



What if my child discloses that sexual abuse has taken place?

Your reaction to the disclosure will have a big effect on how your child deals with the trauma of sexual abuse. Your role will be very important for your child's healing and recovery.



What if my child discloses that sexual abuse has taken place?

1. Stay calm
2. Believe Your Child
3. Protect Your Child – Get them away from the abuser **IMMEDIATELY**
4. Get Help – Medical if that is needed, counselor, etc.
5. Reassure your Child
6. Keep Your Child Informed About What Will Happen Next



Recommended Resources

TCKCOUNSELING.COM



Recommended Resources

DARKNESS TO LIGHT –
STEWARDS OF CHILDREN
(D2L.ORG)



Recommended Resources

IN OUR ORGANIZATION, REACH OUT TO
YOUR AREA DIRECTOR OR REGIONAL
DIRECTOR OR MEMBER CARE



To support TCKI, talk to your financial specialist to make a (00) transfer to account 891154 (40)



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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US