



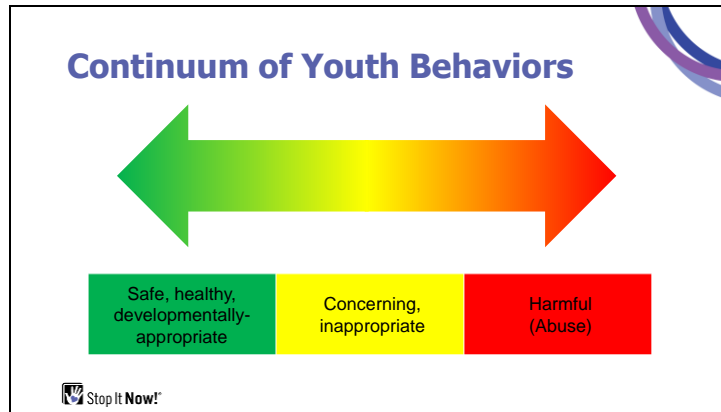
**CIRCLES
OF SAFETY**

**Circles of Safety:
Understanding and
Responding to Warning
Signs**




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Healthy or Unhealthy?

Healthy	Variable	Unhealthy
Curiosity, Discovery, Processing	Motivation	Coercion/control, Emotional Need, Reactive
Mutual consent, Equal power, Spontaneous	Dynamic	Manipulation, Threats, Unequal dynamic, Repetitious, Strategized
Looking, Touching, Showing	Activity	Adult sex-like activity, Repeated behavior
Fun, Silly, Spirit of play	Affect	Fear, Shame, Entitled, "Sneaky"

 Stop It Now!

Consider the Context

Scenario: You walk in on a 6-year-old and a 3-year-old. They are both on the bed, and the 3-year old is naked. The older child is touching the younger child's penis. This is the second time this has happened, but the first time this happened you just asked them to go put their clothes on and get ready for dinner.

What information do you need? What do you want to know?

- > *What questions about motivation, dynamic, activity, and affect do you want to ask?*




Warning Signs of Possible Sexual Abuse in Children

- Unexplained changes in routines and habits
- Regressive behaviors
- Unexplained fears, mood swings
- Risky behavior
- Secrets
- Leaves "clues"
- Unexplained money or gifts
- ❖ Sexualized behavior



Warning Signs of Youth Causing Sexual Harm

Confused about social rules and interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insists on physical contact/alone time with child• Age-appropriate sexual behaviors in inappropriate settings• Spends time with much younger children
Anxious, depressed, needs help	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drugs and/or alcohol involved• History of violence, own abuse
Impulsively sexual or aggressive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behavior elicits complaints/continues after limits set• Uses threats and coercion

 Stop It Now!

Talking with Youth about Warning Signs

- Stay calm, don't shame or label
- Talk about behaviors – not intent
- Refer to safety plans and rules
- Redirect and talk about alternatives
- Help kids build communication skills
- Let them know that adults are responsible for helping them and their environment stay safe



A photograph of a woman and a young girl sitting at a desk. The woman is leaning over, pointing at the desk, while the girl looks on. The scene is brightly lit, possibly by a window. Overlaid on the left side of the image is a yellow rectangular box containing text and a bulleted list.

Response to Warning Signs

- Protect and respond
- Take action
- Follow up
- Trust yourself
- Find an ally
- Review and follow the safety plan


Discovery of Abuse or Sexual Harm

- Disclosure
- Accidental
- Intentional
- Evidence
- Adult's reaction




Next Steps

FOR CHILD WHO EXPERIENCED ABUSE	FOR CHILD WHO HAS SEXUALLY HARMED
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response• Talking with others, i.e. parents• Professional help• Resume safety• Protect relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response• Resume safety• Talking with others, i.e. parents• Professional help• Protect relationship



Response to Disclosure and/or Evidence

- System response and safety
- Reporting
- Safety
- Professional Help
- Relationship




Continuum of Adult Behaviors

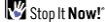
●	Safe, Healthy, Developmentally Appropriate	
●	Concerning, Inappropriate	
●	Abusive	

 Stop It Now!

The Importance of Breaking Down Myths



- I am probably well known and liked by you and your child: a nice guy offender.
- I can be a man or a woman, married or single.
- I can be an adult, adolescent or a child.
- I can be of any race, hold any religious belief, and have any sexual orientation.
- I can be a coach, teacher, family friend, parent, step-parent, relative, clergyman, babysitter, or anyone who comes in contact with children.
- I am likely to be a stable, employed, respectable member of the community




 Stop It Now!


Observing Behaviors – Not Intent

If we only knew when someone was walking down the wrong road, we might be able to stop them in their tracks, turn them around, and get them help before they harmed a child.



Continuum of Adult's Behaviors

	Praise, high-fives, child-initiated hugs, pats on the back or shoulders, etc.
	Playing favorites, adult initiated hugs, patting the buttocks, sexual or suggestive comments, "dirty" jokes, asking for personal telephone or e-mail, taking individual photos, etc.
	Showing porn, watching youth undress, asking a child to touch another child sexually, any sexual activity with minor.

 Stop It Now!

Activity:
Continuum of Adult Behaviors

Safe, healthy, developmentally-appropriate Concerning, inappropriate Abusive

Stop It Now!



Speaking Up - Model

- Set the tone - shared responsibility and accountability
- Be honest and genuine
- Describe the behavior
- State what you want
- Speak up and set boundaries



Communication Skills

- Language and Tone
- Avoid Labels and Intent
- Stick to the Facts
- Calm and Confident
- Respectful
- Listening Skills
- Follow up

The photograph shows an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a blue and white plaid button-down shirt. He is seated at a dark wooden table, looking towards the right. His hands are clasped on the table. In the foreground, the back of a person's head and shoulder, wearing a dark blue shirt, is visible, suggesting an interaction. The background is a brightly lit room, possibly a kitchen or dining area, with a television and some items on a counter.

Successful Conversations

DOs

- Set the stage
- Stick to the facts
- We're on the "same side"
- Be honest about your feelings
- Include positives
- Be prepared with information
- Create safety plan together

DON'Ts

- Avoid labels
- Avoid judgment
- Avoid comparisons


AFTER

- Thank the adult
- Follow up



**Exercise:
Adults Crossing Boundaries**

- 1. Set the tone - shared responsibility and accountability
- 2. Describe the behavior
- 3. State what you want
- 4. Speak up and set boundaries



Role Play Scenarios

	PARENTS & FAMILIES	PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVER/EDUCATOR	COMMUNITY MEMBER
1	Your child tells you your spouse asked them to keep a secret about buying them something.	A parent tells you that your assistant teacher texted their 14-year-old that they are "sexy."	You have noticed that your neighbor has been standing at the bus stop with a group of children since school started.
2	You are concerned that your spouse may be looking at illegal images.	A parent in your day camp has been bringing gifts to another camper (not his own child) and asking about the child's home life.	You've noticed a religious leader taking a special interest in a 13-year-old, often bringing them alone to their office.
3	While visiting for 2 weeks, Aunt Mary tells your 6-year-old that he is going to break lots of hearts and jokes about being younger so she can take a "roll in the hay with him."	In the teacher's lounge, you overhear the librarian talking on the phone about an overseas trip, and how cool it was to see so many young, pretty girls "dating" older men.	Your supervisor brings his 9-year-old to work daily after school. A colleague has been spending a lot of time with her. You observed him telling her that her dad doesn't understand her the way he does, and he has been talking about dating websites he visits.

Thank you!

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Helpline: **1.888.PREVENT**



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