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Stop It Now! *Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children*

Now! NEWS

Fall 2013

SEX ABUSE PREVENTION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Children with disabilities are almost three times more likely to be sexually abused than children without disabilities. One of the biggest factors that contributes to this increased risk is the reluctance of adults to provide sexuality education to children with disabilities.

Accurate information about sexual development for children with disabilities, and about communication and safety planning specific to disability-related concerns are crucial tools in keeping these children safe.

Tip Sheets for Parents of Children with Disabilities

In partnership with the [Chicago Children's Advocacy Center](#), Stop It Now! has designed a new tip sheet packet: [For Parents of Children with Disabilities](#).

Building on our prevention tip sheets for safety planning and addressing particular risks for children with disabilities, these new materials provide information, guidelines and planning tools for parents and other care-giving adults.

Healthy Sexuality for Children with Disabilities

Healthy sexuality education is a key component of prevention and safety planning. Children and youth with disabilities can become more vulnerable to sex abuse when the adults around them do not believe that children with disabilities need sex education in the same way as children without disabilities.

Parents and professionals alike who work with children and youth with disabilities can learn more about sexuality needs through [Advocates for Youth](#) publication, [Sex Education for Physically, Emotionally and Mentally Challenged Youth](#).

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Child Sex Abuse
Prevention & Protection
Center
(Stop It Now!)
#12223

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Learn more about the risks for children with disabilities to help understand what is needed to increase protective factors.

- [The Risk and Prevention of Maltreatment of Children with Disabilities](#) - Child Welfare Information Gateway
- [Sexual Abuse of Children with Disabilities: A National Snapshot](#) - The VERA Institute

Ask Now! Question: Is my autistic son being abused in school?

Q: My child has autism and I need info to see if he has been sexually abused at school.

A: Parents of a child with developmental disabilities can face challenges regarding their child's safety in ways that are different from other parents. It is sometimes difficult to sort out signs of sexual abuse from typical autism behaviors, such as repetitive gestures and unusual body postures. [Read more...](#)

[Visit Ask Now!](#) to view our latest questions.

Stop It Now!® prevents the sexual abuse of children by mobilizing adults, families and communities to take actions that protect children before they are harmed.

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