What we are going to do

- Review basic principles of child sexual abuse safety education for children using the Boy Scouts of American prevention program.
- Review research on the effectiveness of prevention programs for young children.
- Discuss safety education in the context of emerging ideas about protecting children in out-of-care situations.

Emerging Ideas in CSA Prevention

- Mandatory Child Abuse Training (Prevention, Recognition, Intervention and Reporting)
- Clear Accessible Policies (Codes of Conduct, In and Out of program)
- Adults and Youth code of conduct
- Screening of all staff and volunteers (cbc, ref. checks etc.)
- Clear procedure for reporting policy/code/abuse (violations, inappropriate behavior, etc.)
- Clear Reporting of Child Abuse to law enforcement and DCFS (BSA MRCA)
- Personal Safety Training for Youth
- Top Down organizational climate of safety
Components of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (CDC 2007 A Beginning)

- Screening / Selection
- Guidelines (Policies) for Interaction between Individuals
- Monitoring Behavior
- Ensuring Safe Environments
- Responding to Inappropriate behavior and abuse
- Training on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

BSA Prevention

- Clear Policies
- Leader Selection / Screening
- CBC – First Advantage
- Volunteer Screening Database
- Parental Involvement
- Youth Training (Personal Safety Training)
- Mandatory Adult (YPT) Training (7 Modules)
- Parent Handbook Discussion With Youth
- BSA Resources
- And Much More

BSA Youth Protection

Youth-
Required Personal Safety Awareness training, BSCC, Chapter 13:
Developmentally appropriate

Parents-
Parent Handbook, How To Protect Your Child From Abuse, Parent Participation, Open Program

Leaders-
Mandatory training, covering ACE’s, Poly Vic dynamics, grooming, Prevention policies, recognition, intervention, reporting, policy violation to abuse, in and out of scouting

Professionals-
Clear response procedures, Scouts First! Help, Protocols, Limited Investigation
Limits of Current Prevention Ideas

Golden rule of prevention: do the best we can based on what we know at the time
Little or no evidence most work
Best practices may or may not be evidence based
Does complexity create a false sense of safety
A good program is not necessarily a safe program
Whose job is it to set the standards – how do you know who knows best?
Clear we know that disclosure is prevention
Ambivalence around disclosure
Safety Education next best thing
Not primary prevention - socialization

Disclosure

- Significant number not until adulthood
- Delay is common, five years or more
- Longer delays youth abused by family members
- Mothers and peers are most common people to whom children disclose
- Few youth disclose to professionals

Disclosure (Cont.)

- Significant numbers recant or deny even in face of evidence
- Boys more reluctant than girls
- Youth exposed to non-penetration abuse more like to disclose than those penetrated
- Some youth will and some will not disclose when asked
- Limited research on why, when, and what encourages disclosure
Dealing with Abuse is Hard

Safety Education Basic Content
- Teaching children the proper names for their body parts from a young age.
- Explaining that some body parts are private, which means that other people should not touch them.
- Discussing boundary setting, and encouraging children to say “no” to unwanted or uncomfortable touch.
- Telling children explicitly that it is not acceptable for adults or older youth to behave in a sexual way with them, such as using sexual language or engaging in sexual behavior.
- Informing child that some people may want them to keep secrets, or use other tactics that make them uncomfortable.
- Telling child no need to keep secrets and should tell trusted adult about it.
- Helping children to identify the trusted adults in their life who they can go to if they feel uncomfortable.
- Open communication with children

Barbara Sinatra Children’s Center
Protect Yourself Rules
- Series One: “Protect Yourself Rules”
- YouTube Statistics
- Views To Date: 13,100,000 including classrooms
- Average Views Per Day: 10,000
- Most Viewed Video All Time: “Secrets”
Tell the Whole Story

The Protect Yourself Rules

Demographics of Viewers (age):
- 13-17: 11%
- 18-24: 31%
- 25-34: 22%
- 35-44: 22%
- 45+: 14%

Views By Device:
- Phone: 47.1%
- Computer: 27.5%
- Tablet: 20.2%
- Television: 3.2%

Protect Yourself Rules
Statistics Past 30 Days

Total Views: 289,000
Growth From Previous Month: +2%
Views By Country Last 30 days

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How Are Viewers Finding Us Online

- Bullying
- Fight child abuse
- Storybook (children's website)
- Storybook abuse (children's website)
- Bullying for kids
- Bullying short film
- Fight child abuse
- Bullying
- Stranger danger for children

BSA Cub Scout Requirement

- Cub Scout Preview Adventure
- Required to earn Badge of Rank (Lion, Tiger, Wolf Bear, Webelo and Arrow of Light)
- K, 3, 4, 6
- Covers Protect Yourself Rules
- Content BSCC Foundation and Center
- Animation and Production Wonder Media
Research on Prevention

- Pre 2000
  - Children can learn prevention concepts and skills
    - Behavioral skill training important
    - Level of activity vs. watching films
    - Older children learn more
    - Learning over number of sessions (not time) better
- 1995 David Finkelhor, National representative sample
  - 67% of children have prevention program
  - 11% CSA (other victimization experiences)
  - Slightly more knowledge gains, comprehensive programs
  - Victimized and threatened children somewhat more likely use self protection techniques
  - Children in comprehensive program more likely to disclose and to rate self as able to self protect
  - Parent education associated with child learning, use of preferred self protection skills, likelihood of disclosing
  - CSA prevention not helpful to children in actual prevention where as better parent instruction did.
  - Greater injury (fighting back)
  - Increased worry (8% a lot, 53% worry a little), among young, Black, lower SES but most positive feedback
  - 64% increased worry “a lot” report actually using skills
  - Twice as many children shared “a lot” told parent about something as result of program

Additional Research

- Gibson & Littenberg, 2000
  - 971 college women
  - 62% had participated in “good touch bad touch” program as child
  - 8% subsequently abused vs. 16% subsequently abused who did not have program
  - No difference disclosure but trend in those who had training to disclose earlier
- Implications: knowledge takes place, some negative emotional reactions – rare but possible, hint that children may use effectively, but what better?
Future Directions

- Informed by ACE and Poly-victimization
- Role of Youth Serving Organizations in Creating Safe Spaces (CDC)
- Addition of Youth and Adult perpetrator dynamics
- Every YSO should have a Child Safety Plan

Future Directions

- Disclosure Interventions
  - Well child visits
  - Programs to increase disclosure
  - Annual review childhood adversities
    - Don’t ask if you are not going to do anything
- Teen series – risk changes over development
- True primary prevention: male socialization, children as sexual objects
- Parent education & training
- National Center to Support YSOs
- Research focused prevention efforts

Thank You

JON R. CONTE
MICHAEL V. JOHNSON