

Parent's Educational Handbook

UNDERSTANDING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

Educational Material Developed by:

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Rhino and Elephant Abuse Awareness Program©

Sexual Assault Clinic

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Educational Vol. 1

WELCOME

We would like to participate in Abuse Awareness and the interest in protecting your



thank you for your participation in the Rhino and Elephant Abuse Awareness Program© you have shown in child against abuse.

MOTIVATION

experience it has that teaching children protective behaviours against

In our experience it has become clear that teaching children protective behaviours against abuse, the “old fashioned” way, is ineffective and at times dangerous. “Stranger Danger” is appropriate in some instances but in this day and age, and with plenty of research behind us, we have realised how important it has been to create a program that will lend itself to the changing face of crime against our children, in particular sexual and physical abuse. We galvanised ourselves into creating this pro-active program that will educate parents and teachers and give children the necessary tools to protect themselves.

OUR AIM

The Rhino and Elephant Abuse Awareness Program© sole aim is to help parents and teachers identify the signs of abuse and the material explains clearly what steps to take thereafter without losing focus and re-traumatising the child. Abuse of children is a very real and heinous crime and must be taken very seriously. We, as parents, cannot expect children to protect themselves against older children and/or adults; it is not just or fair to place this burden on their young shoulders, especially when the offender often times is part of the immediate or extended family. Therefore it stands to

reason, that as responsible adults and parents, we must educate ourselves so that we may help our children effectively in times of trauma.

THE CHILDREN'S ACT (ACT No. 38 OF 2005)

Before we can begin we must have a look at who the law describes to us as being a child.

THE CHILDREN'S ACT, 2005 (ACT NO.38 OF 2005)

A Child is birth to 18 years of age. The Child Act has been established to promote the protection, development and wellbeing of a child. In other words, the interests of a child is PARAMOUNT and to do otherwise is a criminal offence

In other words, the act has been written to protect **ALL** children and if you suspect; hear of or see a child being abused the law requires you to report it

to your nearest authority immediately. If you do not and the authorities know that you were aware of the abuse you can be prosecuted!

FACTS AND FICTION

So now you know your responsibilities regarding the abuse of a child, let's have a look at the dogma surrounding abuse:

- **Child abuse is more common in rural areas and occurs rarely in cities**

Research has shown that abuse occurs more frequently in cities/towns than in rural areas. Socio-economic factors and education are known not to affect these figures. Children are no less vulnerable in well-to-do families than those of their poorer counterparts.

- **Only adults commit child sexual abuse.**

Since the World Cup in 2010, organisations assisting vulnerable children have noticed a rapid and alarming increase in child-on-child rape. That is, teenage children sexually assaulting children as young as 3 and 4 years of age. When investigating these cases it has been found that 98% of these young offenders have witnessed sexual aggression, been exposed to some form of sexuality or have been victims of sexual assault themselves.

- **Children “ask” for these actions by being “seductive” or by “consenting” to the sexual acts.**

*It is important to realise it is **impossible** for children to give informed consent. Children do not understand the nature of sex or the responsibility it takes to give consent to a sexual act. Provocation, seduction and “asking for it” are the paedophile’s way of disputing their own irrational and maladaptive behaviour.*

- **Child sexual abuse is rare and only involves girls.**

Child sexual assault is considered to be a pandemic in South Africa. There are more children on average being molested than adults. To the sexual predator boy children are equally as vulnerable as girl children. In many instances a paedophile will lure both girl and boy victims into his/her snare.

- **Child sexual abusers are homosexuals.**

Sexual predators are most often married, have their own children and live and have normal and healthy sexual relationships with their spouse or partner. There is a ratio 11:1 in favour of heterosexuals; however, predators are not ‘picky’ when it comes to the victim’s sex. The possibility emerges that homosexuality and homosexual paedophilia may be mutually exclusive and that the adult heterosexual male constitutes a greater risk to the underage child than does the adult homosexual male.

- **Child abusers are mostly lower income.**

Research has shown us that abusers are most likely from working class or middle class sectors - poverty or wealth have no direct effect on a paedophile’s drive or motivation.

- **Children that have been abused will become adult abusers.**

While it may be said that boys who have been sexually abused and who have come from a dysfunctional family are at greater risk at being adult abusers than boys who have come from normal family homes, the fact remains if children, both girls and boys, do not receive supportive and emotional counselling after the incident there will be a greater tendency to draw and act on their past behavioural patterns and experiences. The percentage of child abuse victims becoming abusers is not established but the margin has decreased exponentially with the advent and understanding of intensive psycho and trauma therapy.

- **Disabled children are not at risk.**

Disabled children, mentally and physically, are perhaps at greater risk than healthy active children. They are more vulnerable to predators due to their lack of communication or physical ability to avoid predator's advances. Often feeling isolated they sometimes lack the ability to communicate the offence to their parents/caregivers. Due to the need for close physical care and contact required by the disabled child, a paedophile may take advantage of the situation - due to the child's helplessness.

- **Children are usually abused by strangers**

The statistics in South Africa show 98% of children medically examined were molested by an immediate family member or friend/acquaintance of the family. Cases seen by the Sexual Assault Clinic show that intra-familial rape is on the rise. Only 2% of cases seen have been opportunistic rape (spur of the moment/stranger rape).

- **Women do not abuse children.**

While it is rare there have been occasions where women have acted as accomplices or have overtly solicited children for their own means or for pornographic requests. Women offenders normally target older victims, viz, older than 13 years. One of recent history's most prolific female sex offenders was U.K's Rosemary West. Assisting her husband in the soliciting, capture and murder of young woman (including two of her own daughters) to appease their depraved sexual urges.

In June, 2009 a kindergarten teacher, Vanessa George, owner of Little Ted's Nursery School, UK was arrested over child pornography. Taking photographs of her young charges she would pose them naked and upload the photos to the internet. Police investigating the

matter were quoted as saying "the photographs uploaded are at the top-end of the scale".

- **Women are equally guilty of the charge of rape if they don't disclose rape in their family unit.**

Our Courts no longer show leniency towards mothers who witness or are aware of the abuse of their child/ren. In a mind numbing South African case, 2013, where a child was severely molested and assaulted the magistrate found both parents equally culpable, both parents were charged with the identical crime and both received long sentences.

- **Some cultures believe child abuse is acceptable.**

In some African cultures, violent behaviour including child abuse is more common and widely accepted as compared with other cultures (e.g. in more developed countries), which may be attributed to the cultural beliefs and existing norms of the societies. Higher child mortality rates due to consequences of child abuse in African countries may support the higher acceptance of abusive behaviour in this region.

- **Children lie about abuse.**

If a child has no point of reference, in other words, has not witnessed or lived in a home where pornographic or sexually explicit material or events occur, then there is no reason whatsoever to believe a child is lying about the abuse.

The other side of the coin is that children may lie about the abuse that is taking place to protect the offender from being discovered. Children do this because of hold the offender has over the child, i.e. "I thought you loved me", "this is our secret", "I will hurt Mommy or Daddy if you tell anyone".

Now that we have helped debunk some of the fiction surrounding let's have a look at different types of Child Abuse.

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

In plain language it is:

PHYSICAL

That is the...

- Shaking
- Hitting
- Beating
- Biting
- Burning, of a child

EMOTIONAL

That is the...

- Shaming – “Cry Baby, Mommy's Boy, etc.”
- Blaming
- Putting down a child – “You can't do that you're too stupid”
- Excessive yelling

SEXUAL

That is

- Incest (intra-familial sex)
- Any forced sexual activity
- Exposure to sexual stimulation
- Exposure to sexual language

NEGLECT

- That is a parent/legal guardian or care-giver's failure to provide constant food, shelter, medical care.
- A pattern of failure to meet emotional needs such as affection; attention and supervision.

WHO IS YOUR TYPICAL CHILD MOLESTER?

When you look at this list of typical child molesters you will begin to view people in your inner circle and social circle in a very different light:

- They are probably well known and liked by your child
- They can be a man; woman; child; married or single
- They can be any race and hold different religious beliefs
- They can be a mother; father; sister; brother; aunt; cousin; neighbour; babysitter; house parent; scout leader; pastor or be your best friend. In other words it could be anyone who comes into contact with your child.
- They are most likely to come across as stable; well-adjusted, a well-liked individual who, if an adult, holds down a good job and is a respected member of the community or who is popular with children.
- Education and intelligence are not excluded.

SO WHO ARE THESE CHILD MOLESTERS?

The generic term for this type of molester is “Paedophile”.

Paedophilia is a very real disease, it has been diagnosed as a psychiatric disorder, in which older teenagers and adults have an exclusive sexual need for children under a certain age.

The word Paedophile is Greek and can be explained as Child Love, in other words it is the carnal love for a child. In our society it is not acceptable and we have the Child Act to protect any child from this type of monster.

“Paedophilia falls within its own category and cannot be classified as either homosexual or heterosexual.”

THE MYTHS SURROUNDING PAEDOPHILES

- **Paedophiles only have sex with children, never adults.**

Not true:

Many are in adult relationships

- **Paedophiles randomly pick their victims**

Not true:

They know, have fantasized about their victim and have purposely targeted them.

- **Paedophiles are made up only of men**

Not true:

While men are characteristically more likely to be child offenders there are documented cases of women paedophiles, most for having sexual intercourse with children over the age of 13 years.

- **Sex offenders are easy to suspect**

Not true:

Many people are surprised to discover that someone they know is a sex offender.

- **MYTH: Children are afraid of child paedophiles**

Not true: *Often these people have a close and trusted relationship with the child.*

I was overly friendly with the children, to the point of hugging and so on. That should have alerted someone that something wasn't right. I tended to relate more to children instead of adults and my peers, someone should have noticed.

Child Sex Offender

WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO CATCH A CHILD MOLESTER?

Once an adult molester starts they will do almost anything to not get caught. They are sexually turned on by children and enjoy being sexual with a child. Both adult and child molesters are very skilled and will not stop to think the harm it is doing to the child and their family. They cannot stop on their own accord; they will have to be caught.

They maintain the child's silence by using "love", fear, silence or guilt, they can convince the child:

- That they are responsible for the molester's behaviour
- They will make the child think that no-one will believe them.
- Threaten the child if they talk.
- Make the child feel sorry for them.
- Tell the child that they feel the child no longer loves them.
- They may make the situation "accidental" especially if they live with the child. Accidentally walking in on them when they are changing or when they are in the bathroom.
- If the molester is a father or an older brother/sister they may use normally situations to touch the child sexually, like tucking them into bed or bathing them.

WHAT IS RAPE?

In South Africa we have an Act dealing just with rape and similar offences.

This law is called the **Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act, No. 32 of 2007**.

The Law distinguish between three sexual offences:

a. **SEXUAL ASSAULT**

is everything that is not considered rape:

Touching, fondling, showing pornography, masturbating in front of child, or any other act of a sexual nature. (Rubbing the child's genitalia is rape)

b. **RAPE**

is non-consensual forced sex anal and/or vaginally.

What is consensual sex?

Consensual sex is intercourse between persons, both over the age of 16 years with both parties consenting.

What is rape?

- Age - one party under 16 years of age
- Consent - The person must be mentally stable, conscious and able to give consent.
- Body - Insertion of any object or bodily part of a human or animal in any genital organ or anus of another.
- Insertion of any genital organ of a human or animal into the mouth of another.
- 3rd Party rape - A person forcing others to have sex against their will.
- Forced consent - Intimidation or threat or abuse of power.

c. **PORNOGRAPHY**

is the making of and/or possession of child pornography.

Children over the age of 16 years and adults can be prosecuted for any of the above criminal acts and serve severe prison sentences.

WHAT IS THE CONTROVERSIAL KISSING ACT?

THE CURRENT ACT REASONS:

*"A child between the ages of 12 and 16 **cannot** give consent to sexual acts (with another child aged between 12 and 16 years of age.*

Penalties for children who contravened this act were as follows:

*If the age gap was more than two years between the two children the older child would be charged with a criminal offence of **Statutory Rape**.*

*If the gap was less than two years between the two children both children would be charged with the criminal offence of **Statutory Rape**".*

THE PROPOSED NEW ACT REASONS:

*"A child between the ages of 12 and 16 years of age can now give consent if the sexual act is mutually acceptable to another child between the ages of 12 and 16 years of age and **not** be prosecuted.*

CONSENSUAL SEX

GIRLS AND BOYS

BOTH UNDER 16



STATUTORY RAPE

GIRLS AND BOYS

GIRLS UNDER 16

BOY OVER 16



A SEXUAL ACT WITH AND BY ANY CHILD IS CONSIDERED

RAPE IF CONSENT IS ABSENT

The courts have removed the responsibility of children's actions from the shoulders of the judicial system back to the parents. Parents are now charge with teaching their children values, responsibilities and boundaries. A good a solid upbringing should not see children entering into early sexual relationships.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF MOLESTATION?

The child must exhibit at least three or more of the below mentioned indicators, 3 or less could be an indication of another logical ailment.

Physical

- ✗ Blood on underwear
- ✗ Missing a period or pregnancy in a girl
- ✗ Blood, pain, discharge, itching in the genital area
- ✗ Abnormal way of walking or sitting
- ✗ Sudden bed- wetting, soiling or wetting of underwear
- ✗ Sudden ailments (headaches, tummy pain, etc.)

Behavioural

- ✗ Suddenly behaving aggressively
- ✗ Breaking items and being generally destructive
- ✗ Stealing
- ✗ Lying
- ✗ Poor sleeping habits
- ✗ Over or under eating
- ✗ Acting provocatively
- ✗ Excessive crying

- ✗ Increase temper tantrums
- ✗ Changes in normal behaviour such as withdrawal
- ✗ Fear of an familiar adult or child (cousin, aunt, uncle, parent or grandparent)
- ✗ Nightmares
- ✗ Depression
- ✗ Disgust in own body or gender

DISCLOSURE

Source: Teddy Bear Clinic

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “DISCLOSURE”?

When a child reveals information, or confesses, or admits sexual abuse, this term is referred to as a “disclosure”.

My son was going to graduate from kindergarten, we had a party. One little girl did not want to go home ... I didn't know the child. She was crying and carrying on - I told her teacher my suspicions based on the child's remarks. The teacher, who had suspicions of her own - notified Child Protection Services and the boyfriend was removed from the home. Children **DO** tell... You just have to **LISTEN** to them!!!!

Debroah LoVetta (Co-operative Parent Education)

In most instances a child will disclose only if they feel safe, secure, that they can trust the person and know that they are going to be BELIEVED. They must know that something concrete/proactive is going to be done about the abuse.

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THE SUDDENNESS AND AWKWARDNESS OF DISCLOSURE?

You may feel as if the air has been taken from your lungs, you feel faint, unsure what to do next. You start to feel a range of emotions that are not normally felt. Confusion may be one of them, disbelief another. No matter how it has affected you, remember your emotions are not what is important at this time, do not show the child your shock, horror, disbelief or disgust.

The following steps will help not only prepare you but make it easier for the child to trust you, to engage and to tell their side of what has occurred.

- Gently remove the child from a busy area to an area that is quiet so that you can hear exactly what the child is disclosing. This move will make them feel safe to express themselves.
- Do not be judgemental and do not correct the child in what he/she is saying or tell them how to feel.
- Show sympathy
- Listen, really listen to what the child is saying, as the information given to you will be important when giving a statement to the social worker and/or police officer
- You may ask questions to clarify what has occurred, be patient, it is an especially difficult time for a child to be able to let go of what has been happening and for them to confide in you. Guard against leading a child in questioning e.g. "Did he touch you, where did he touch you", rather say "Tell me what happened in your own words". Whatever you do, do not put words in the child's mouth.
- Under no circumstances do you urge the child to forget what has happened. Be supportive in your role as listener
- Some children may feel the need for physical closeness – hugging or holding hands.

- Be prepared for the child to feel ashamed, dirty and guilty or feel suicidal and responsible for the abuse. Most often an abuser is someone the child loves and they feel that they have let the offender down by disclosing.

-

SUPPORT THE CHILD WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT CAN YOU SAY:

- I am so glad you told me what has happened to you.
- You have been very brave to come to me and tell me what has happened
- I believe you and I am going to do my best to help you
- What has happened is not your fault
- Don't be afraid to cry
- You have the right to be angry
- You may feel that you will never be happy again, it's ok. You won't feel this sad forever
- The person who did this to you needs help and we need help, will you trust me to help you?

HOW TO DEAL WITH YOUR EMOTIONS:

- As a parent or guardian of a child the worst thing you can do is blame yourself. No person can be everywhere at the same time. Realise offenders are cunning and manipulative and they would have made it their concern to find vulnerable areas in your time schedule or relationship with the child

- Your anger, shock and horror are normal. Talking to someone who can help you put things into perspective, who understands and can comfort you will help you cope with these feelings e.g. Chaplain, Pastor, Social Worker, Counsellor, Friend, etc. Rape is bigger than you are and you need to provide the child with solid support and comfort, you cannot be a support to the child when you are falling apart.

VITAL INFORMATION TO CONSIDER AFTER DISCLOSURE:

- When a child has disclosed, in terms of the CHILDREN'S ACT 38 OF 2005 [Amendment Act 42 of 2013 – to date] you have to report the incident. You cannot sweep it under the carpet. Failure to do so can lead to your prosecution.
- Encourage the child to continue with their normal school and play routine. The quicker a child re-integrates into the community and home life the sooner the chances are of recovery. Normalise your life as much as possible and don't fuss unnecessarily around the child either.
- Understand that the child will have angry outbursts, act out aggressively and be generally disobedient, this is how they will release the guilt that has been placed on them but let them understand this is how anger is expressed but there must be limitations to the behaviour. Rather encourage a child to kick a ball, jump on a trampoline until tired, run around or punch a punching bag or old toy until the outburst has subsided.
- Very importantly do not make promises you cannot keep, i.e. "you will never see the person again, he/she is going to jail and the police will never let them out". Often times the offender is given

bail and the possibility of the child meeting up with the offender before the court date is a reality. Rather say "X is going to need lots of help. The police are going to speak to you and they will speak to X too. There is nothing to be afraid about because X is not well and needs help just like we need help too".

- Don't lead the child in conversation
- Don't let the child overhear you talking about the incident or the offender, you need the integrity of the child's memory to stay intact for trial. You may let the child talk about the incident and answer their questions honestly but do not let them hear your opinion or any expression of how you feel about the situation.

YOUR NEXT STEPS

By law on disclosure you have to report the abuse to either a social worker or the police.

REMINDER: SIGNS OF BLOOD ON UNDERWEAR, DIFFICULTY WALKING MUST BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO YOUR NEAREST POLICE STATION.

CONSTRUCTIVE THINGS TO DO (Reporting and Procedural Protocol)

In the event of a recent rape (within 72 hours of incident)

- Where there are definite signs of sexual assault contact the following without delay:
- South African Police Sector Policing Vehicle, Social Worker, 10111 or CMS 24 Hour Control Room
- Do not panic – reassure the child that they are safe with you
- Stay in control – the child needs you to be strong for them

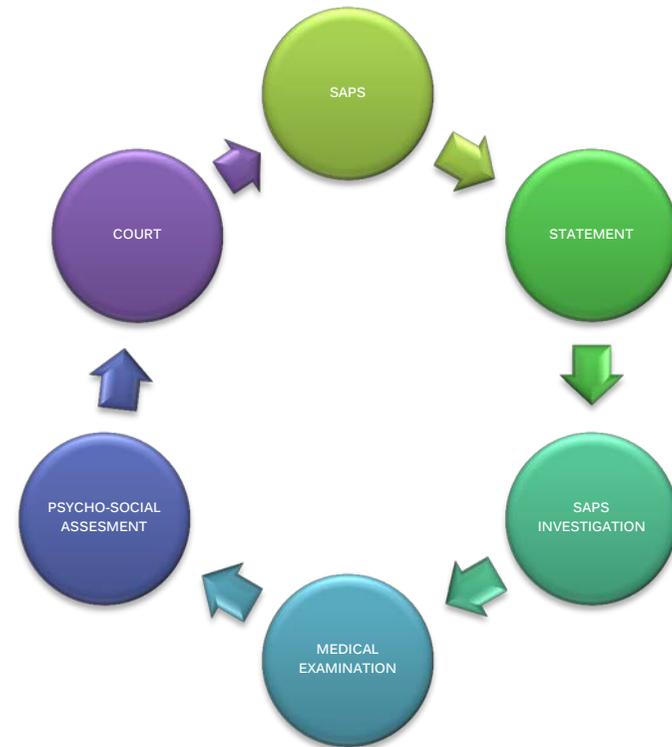
- Tell the child that you believe them. This is very important to their mental wellbeing
- Do not remove any clothing from the child, do not bath or wash the child. As part of the medical examination swabs are taken for the collection of DNA and other trace elements that all serve to help catch the offender
- Be truthful – the child needs to know that they can trust you. Explain to the child in a language they understand where they will be taken, that you will be with them, that the police will ask them questions, that a medical examination will be done to see if there are any injuries and that at all times they will be safe

Many police stations will not open a case until a medical examination has taken place. This is traumatising to both child and family as it will feel as if no one wants to assist. If this is the case please report the incident to the Station Commander immediately or his/her next in charge.

The next few steps will help in making the road to reporting a lot smoother.

The diagram over page will assist you with the protocol of reporting.

AMENDED (30/09/2014) PROCEDURE PROTOCOL FOR RAPE/MOLESTATION



It is important to follow the procedure protocol for rape/molestation as these steps ensure that the chain of evidence is not broken and the integrity of the statements will not be questioned when brought to court.

1. STATEMENT

Once a child discloses sexual molestation or assault it is important that a statement be taken immediately from the first reporter, this means the first person the child told. This statement can be done at police station in the immediate vicinity of the incident or at the Sexual Assault Clinic. A statement will be taken from the child in the presence of the parents.

2. CASE TO BE OPENED AT SAPS

Once a statement has been taken a docket/case must be opened immediately thereafter. If the statement has been taken at the police station then the police will interview the child in the presence of their parents in the comfort of their home. No child under 12 is allowed in a police station client centre unless they have a Victim Empowerment Centre (VEC). The child may be interviewed in the VEC by a female constable. The SAPS Standing Orders regarding taking of statements are as follows "A Case cannot be opened if there is no statement".

3. POLICE INVESTIGATION

After the docket/case has been opened the Client Centre of the SAPS will forward the docket to the relevant department i.e. Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit for follow up investigation on the contents of the statement.

4. MEDICAL EXAMINATION

The police will decide, dependent of the child's statement, if a medical examination needs to be undertaken. The FCS Unit of the SAPS will collect the child or ask you to take the child to the closest Forensic Examiner's office. The Forensic Examiner will need the case number before examining the child and completing a J88 (Police Document) which will be collected or delivered to the FCS Unit of the SAPS to be included into the SAPS docket/case file, however, a case number is not always required, it is dependent on immediacy after rape or assault. The safety and well-being of the child is always a priority.

5. COURT

The SAPS docket/case file will be delivered to the courts who will decide whether a child will require a competency or forensic assessment and will then advise the Investigating Officer to make arrangements with Social Services who are capable of assisting with these assessments. Once the assessment has been received the court will then place the case on the court roll for trial purposes. Unfortunately our courts are overburdened with cases and a court case can be expected to take up to 3 years to be finalised. Be patient, follow the process and allow it to unfold naturally. In the end the perpetrator will be sentenced. Don't be discouraged if the National Prosecuting Authority removes the case from the roll, it doesn't mean that the perpetrator has walked away free, it may mean the child has to be a bit older to be able to present testimony in court and the case will be placed "pending" until the child is old enough to testify.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Please make a note of the below organisation's telephone numbers:

Child Welfare (Social Workers)

South African Police Services

Dept. of Basic Education (Supervising Social Worker)

Chaplains

Rape Crisis Centres (medical examinations for sexual and physical assault)

CONCEPTS OF TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT AWARENESS

Efforts should be focused on empowering the child to prevent sexual abuse and can be channelled as follows:

1. ***Become a better informed Parent***

As a parent, caregiver or teacher it is important that you learn to recognise the indications of sexual molestation and/or assault and what to do if it happens to your child or a child that is in your care. Educate yourself.

2. ***Report Rape***

It is important for both parents and teachers to report sexual or physical assault. As stated in the Child Act the **child's needs are paramount** and failure to act responsibly can lead to criminal prosecution.

There have been cases where a mother, aware of the abuse of her child and not reporting the abuse has been found as equally liable as her partner for the crime of rape and given lengthy prison terms.

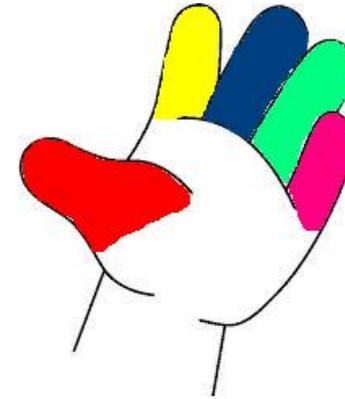
3. ***Find out where to get help***

Never believe it cannot happen to your child or the child in your care. Inform yourself. Find out where to get help and what the critical first steps are after an incident.

4. ***Speak out***

Children should be taught that if something does not feel right to them – butterflies in the stomach - they have full right to speak out about the situation causing discomfort and against an adult or child that is causing them discomfort. Help the child identify 'safe adults' – that is, adults that they know and trust and who they can disclose or discuss matters with total confidence. The identification of these 'safe adults' must be the child's choice as they know who they feel comfortable with.

No offence should be taken if they do not identify you, the parent, as a 'safe-adult'. **Teach them to tell and tell again until they are heard.**



Exercise Networking: Identifying 'safe adults'

Ask the child to trace their hand on a piece of paper. Each of their traced digits (fingers) should be coloured in a different colour and represent a person, 'safe adult', who they can trust implicitly with disclosure. This could include either or both parents, grandparents, teachers, neighbours, etc. Hand in a copy and ask the school to keep it in your child's file.

5. ***Talk seriously and openly***

Be open with your child when they approach you and talk seriously and honestly about the subject. Children need to know that they can trust you as a parent or teacher. **Use the proper terminology when talking about genitalia, they must learn to understand that it is serious and 'grown-up' and an adults responsibility.** Step away from your embarrassment and tactfully help the child with their knowledge of sexual education. The way you brooch the topic of sexuality will be a

marker for your child for the rest of their lives. In most cases a little bit of knowledge is sufficient for younger children.

6. *Introduce a Password.*

In America a stranger approached an 8 year old boy and asked him to come with him. The stranger told him that something had happened and his Mum had sent him to pick him up. The boy asked the stranger for the PASSWORD and used the man's confusion to run away. He and his Mum had agreed on a password in case she ever had to send someone to pick him up, it may very well have saved his life. It's so quick and so easy; please agree on a password with your children.

SOME EASY QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO ASK YOUR CHILD

Consider asking these questions the next time that your child is in someone else's care:

“Did you enjoy yourself today?”

“How did you spend your time?”

“What was your favourite part of the day/ morning/ afternoon/ evening?”

“What was your least favourite part?”

“Why did it make you feel like that?”

“Did you feel safe?”

“Was there anything else you wanted to share with me?”

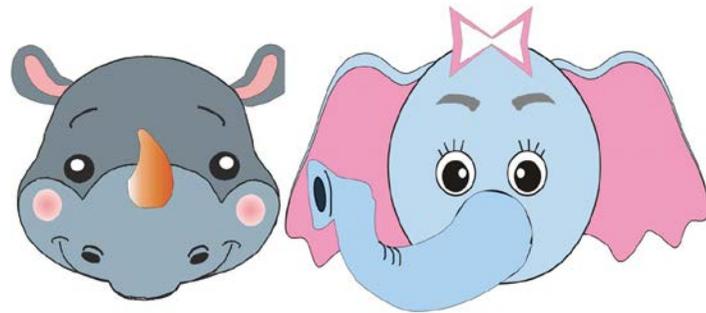
Try to remember to make these questions a consistent habit. Also, it might be helpful to remind your child/ren that they can always add details about what occurred during the time they were away from you. A common mistake that is

made by parents is that when we ask questions we are on top of things, this could not be further than the truth; it's the way you ask the questions that will bring you closer to what is happening in your child's life.

“WE MUST ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A CHILD'S SAFETY & MENTAL WELL BEING FALLS FIRMLY ON THE SHOULDERS OF ADULTS – AT ALL COSTS WE SHOULD KEEP OUR CHILDREN FREE OF UNNECESSARY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ALLOW THEM TO BE JUST THAT – CHILDREN!”

RHINO AND ELEPHANT ABUSE AWARENESS PROGRAM©

Rhino and Elephant



Abuse Awareness

WHAT IS RHINO AND ELEPHANT© ALL ABOUT

The program is about educating parents, teachers and children on protective behaviours and the procedures to follow after the disclosure of abuse.

Children are taught through a sensitively designed play about hygiene, 'special openings' and networking 'safe adults'. The topic; although hugely controversial; is not graphic in its detail and children who have not been exposed to abuse will take with them the lessons they understood from the play, however, children who have been abused will understand the message of the play and will know who to talk to about the incident without fear of reprisal and with the confidence that something concrete and positive will be done to assist them.

Teachers and parents are taught to speak the '**same language**', that is, when the Rhino and Elephant© play is given to the child, whatever lesson's the child takes home with them or into the class after the play is understood by all and

issues are easily addressed without causing undue embarrassment, anxiety, trauma or stress to child, parent and teacher. To be forewarned is to be forearmed - the program not only educates but undertakes to give everyone involved the necessary tools to cope with the crisis that comes with disclosure.

Through this program we have already identified and trained a **Child Protection Officer** in your child's school, this is a person your child knows and trusts should they not be able to tell you about any abuse that is taking place. The Child Protection Officer will act on your child's behalf by seeing to it that the appropriate and correct procedures are followed and immediate help can be offered to you and your child.

We know it is not possible to be everywhere in order to protect our child and this is why we have introduced the Child Protection Officers in schools to help.

The old saying,

**"It takes a village to raise a child"
should rather be re-phrased to
"It takes a village to protect a child".**

THE RHINO AND ELEPHANT STORY

The story was created by Mr Alan Smith, Brisbane Australia. His original work is called Koala and Bunny, however, the Sexual Assault Clinic has been given licence to recreate his work to suit a South African audience. This story has become known as "Rhino and Elephant".

Through a simple story "Rhino and Elephant" the aim is to help prevent the sexual abuse of children by making them aware that they have private body

parts that no one else is allowed to touch or tickle. When children are old enough to attend to their own hygiene, they should be encouraged to wash and dry the private parts of their bodies themselves. It is hoped that children will learn that although it's okay for them to touch their own private body parts in private, it is wrong for anyone else to touch, play or tickle. These private body parts are called "special openings". We teach the child to call their "special openings" by their **correct anatomical names**; the reason is two-fold:

- a) Child Sex Offenders will often use pet names for genitalia and if your child has been taught to use the correct anatomical name you will be alerted to the fact that something is not right;
- b) When children hear the correct anatomical name it becomes a 'big word' and children don't usually need to explore further when 'big words' are used.

We would like parents and children to use the same language with any other name that might creep becomes a warning sign for parents.

The children are also taught about basic hygiene and are introduced to three types of germs which can make a child ill. The concept here is that poor hygiene can lead to urinary tract infections which often mimic rape and we need to encourage children to look after their cleanliness and personal hygiene.

We also explore the use of the "Helping Hand", as described in the Chapter "CONCEPTS OF TEACHING YOUR CHILD ABOUT AWARENESS".

Together we hope to keep our children safe and out of harm's way.