GEARING UP FOR CHILD ADVOCACY & PREVENTION

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Who’s Here?

- Please choose one of the following as your primary role:
  - Sexual assault advocate (general)
  - Child sexual assault/youth advocate
  - Sexual assault preventionist
  - Other at a sexual assault agency
  - Other family/DV or crime victim staff
  - Other
Child Advocacy

- What is it?
- Common barriers
- Child advocacy vs. therapy
- In practice
- Structuring appointments
Core Values of Child Advocacy

- Self determination
- Honesty and respect
- Confidentiality
- Validating and believing
- Benefits of play
- Child advocacy vs. therapy
Prevention with Children

- Shift focus from awareness and early reporting of abuse; not for children to protect themselves or prevent their own abuse
- Goal is to encourage healthy development of children and bolster protective factors
Putting it into Practice

LET'S UNPACK THAT.
Advocacy Appointments

- Flexibility
- Developmental & Cognitive Information
- Multifaceted Abuse
- Trauma Informed Services
Designing a Prevention Plan

- Best practices for delivering: The 9 Principles

- A comprehensive plan promotes healthy children, empowered families, and engaged communities

- Aligning with adult-focused child sexual abuse prevention efforts
About the Guide

- Purpose
- Children ages 5-12
- Some activities designed exclusively for advocacy, others for prevention, and some can be used in both settings
Sections of this Guide

- Icebreaker & Fun Activities
- Reflection & Self-Esteem
- Emotional Identification
- Emotional Regulation & Safety
- Empathy
- Boundaries & Consent
- Gender Expectations
- Relationships
- Sexual Development & Bodies
- Additional Resources
Section Format

Each section includes:

- Purpose of the section
- Any research or field knowledge that informs this section
- Advocacy or prevention considerations
- List of included activities
Activity Format

Each activity includes:

- Audience/age range
- Time needed
- Advocacy and/or prevention
- Goal
- Materials
- Instructions
- Facilitator Notes
- Advocacy or prevention considerations
- Applicable worksheets
Tips!

- Practice activities & conversations ahead of time.
- Get comfortable talking about these topics.
- Verbal & nonverbal cues.
- Not exhaustive!
- Order and time spent in each sections are flexible.
Icebreakers & Fun Activities

- Build rapports
- Meant to be light and fun
- Supports meaningful on-going relationship between advocate and client
- More than just fun – strategically align with learning objectives in a prevention program
Reflection & Self-Esteem

- Explore the concept of identity
- Develop healthy self-esteem
- Differences of promoting self determination with child clients
- Emotional health and connectedness is a perpetration protective factor
Self Affirmation Art
Emotional Identification

- Reconnect & recognize emotional experiences
- Understanding impact of trauma of emotionally expression and interpretation
- Emotional health/connectedness and ability to empathize with others are protective factors against perpetration

Tab title: feelings
“Where Do I Feel” Coloring Activity
Emotional Regulation & Safety

- Coping with feelings
- Build skills to manage emotions
- Promote self soothing
- Increase ability to communicate nonviolently

Tab title: Coping
Empathy

- Connect to the feelings and experiences of others
- Survivors may experience distrust, focusing on empathy helps connectivity with others
- **Risk factors** for sexual violence perpetration include empathic deficits.
- A **protective factors** for sexual violence perpetration is empathy and concern for how one’s actions affect others.
Boundaries & Consent

- Develop healthy boundaries and communication strategies
- Consent is a skill that requires practice
- Survivors may need support reconnecting to or establishing usable boundaries
- There are age appropriate ways to include consent in prevention work with kids
Solar System

HOME ALIVE

Diagram of a system with various symbols connected to the central 'Me' symbol.
Gender Expectations

- Expand cultural and gender norms, challenge stereotypes, and support non-binary expression.
- Explore the impact of cultural and gender expectations on survivors’ experience.
- Rigid gender norms and hypermasculinity are considered to be risk factors for perpetration.
Promote healthy and supportive relationships with peers, future dating partners, and adults.

Even one supportive adult relationship can greatly resiliency for child survivors.

Social change requires peer and community influence in addition to individual education.

Aggressive, unsupportive, and violent relationship exposure is a risk factor for perpetration.
Sexual Development & Bodies

- Accurate information and critical skills to think about sexual development and social norms
- Support a survivor’s relationship with their own bodies
- Risk factors for perpetration are connected to coercive sexual attitudes and material
- Individual education, media literacy, and cultural norms all play a role in promoting healthy or unhealthy sexuality
Additional Resources/ Appendix

- Childhood Developmental Stages chart (WCSAP)
- “40 Developmental Assets” for ages 5-12 (Search Institute)
- “10 Core Concepts for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention” (Wisconsin CASA)
- “Overview of Healthy Childhood Sexual Development” (NSVRC)
- “In Practice: Child Advocacy” (WCSAP)
Share with us?

SO,

WHAT YOU DOING?

Questions?
Thanks!

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