



### DARING DISCUSSIONS

#### HOW PARENTS CAN HAVE CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER PARENTS ABOUT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

To inspire conversations that start to break the silence around child sexual abuse, Child Safety Pledge is encouraging adults to watch and share the Child Safety Pledge PSA Video. You can watch solo or gather other trusted adults in your community to watch together. The purpose of this guide is to help you start a dialogue with other parents and caregivers, either online or in person, on what feels like a daunting subject. Even something as simple as starting a discussion can make a difference and help keep more children safe.

After watching the video, give yourself some time to process. This may trigger trauma, difficult feelings and experiences for viewers. To speak with someone who is trained to help, contact the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE or [online.rainn.org](http://online.rainn.org). If and when you feel you're ready to start a daring discussion:

1.



#### START TO THINK ABOUT THE TOUGH QUESTIONS

What do you know about the issue of child sexual abuse? Are you aware of the different types of abuse, the warning signs to look for, etc.?

- Have you ever spoken to your partner or another trusted adult about child abuse prevention?
- When was the last time you talked to your children about their bodies and understanding boundaries?
- What do you know about the policies and protocols in place to protect against child sexual abuse at the organizations that care for your children (daycare, after-school programs, summer camp, etc.)?

2.



#### SIGN THE PLEDGE AND LEARN MORE

To encourage participation and ensure that the conversation continues on beyond today go to the CSP website to sign the pledge and share on social media to inspire your community to do the same. Then, visit the CSP website and click on the resource links to educate yourself and your family on the issue of child sexual abuse.

### 3.



#### START A CONVERSATION ONLINE

We are encouraging participants to spark conversations online about preventing child sexual abuse by using the hashtag **#StopChildSexualAbuse**.

#### HOW TO SHARE

1. Go to your preferred social media platform—Twitter, Facebook, Instagram
2. Follow steps to share the link to the PSA
3. Use the hashtag #StopChildSexualAbuse when sharing on social media

#### SOCIAL CONTENT

##### SAMPLE COPY 1:

Our children are our everything. We love and support them and would never think that we're sending them in harm's way. Today, **@tagyourfriend** and I had a tough conversation about the realities of child sexual abuse to shine a light on this issue and inspire other adults to do the same. Join us in building a better world for our children.

##### SAMPLE COPY 2:

Today I join **@tagyourfriend** to show that we are united in the fight to create a safer world for our children. Will you join me in having conversations about child sexual abuse to shine a light on this important issue and build a better tomorrow for children everywhere? #StopChildSexualAbuse.

##### SAMPLE COPY 3:

It's easy to feel worried and powerless when thinking about child sexual abuse. But with the right tools, we can and we will triumph over the terrifying, together. Even by having conversations and raising awareness to break the taboo around this issue, we can protect more children from this abuse. #StopChildSexualAbuse

**4.****START A CONVERSATION IN PERSON**

It may feel intimidating to bring up the subject of child sexual abuse in daily conversation with other parents and caregivers in your life - but it doesn't have to be. Approach it like any other child safety issue that you'd talk to your friends about. Below are a couple of scenarios to help you start to think about how you might integrate these conversations into your interactions with parents and caregivers.

**SCENARIO 1:**

You're dropping off your child at daycare and start to chat with your mom-friend Julie, catching up on what's been going on with the kids. "So I watched this video over the weekend that really got me thinking. It was a PSA raising awareness about child sexual abuse and it made me realize how little I know about the issue - can you believe 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before the age of 18? It's so scary and awful to think about, but I started to do some reading and there's a lot we can do to protect our children. Do you happen to know what safety policies our daycare has in place for our kids? I'm thinking I might try to talk to management about it."

**SCENARIO 2: PTA MEETING**

At your next PTA or parent/caregiver meeting, bring some print-outs of our guides for Talking to your Kids about Sexual Abuse and How to Evaluate Youth-Serving Organizations to share with the adults there. Hand out the guides and start up a discussion - "I've been reading about the epidemic of child sexual abuse and wanted to help raise awareness with this community. I printed out some guides to help each of us have conversations with our kids that will help keep them safe, and with the organizations that care for our kids so we can ensure the policies are in place to protect them." You can even offer to help form a child safety action group that looks into the policies and practices in place at school, explores ways to raise awareness in the community, etc.

**SCENARIO 3: HOST A CHILD SAFETY GATHERING**

Invite some of your good friends who are parents and caregivers over to dinner for a discussion on child safety and the issue of child sexual abuse. You can use the list of "tough questions" you asked yourself above to help guide the conversation and then brainstorm together on some concrete steps you can take individually or as a group to raise awareness on child sexual abuse and to help keep your families safe. End the gathering with everyone making an empowering commitment to action and signing the pledge.