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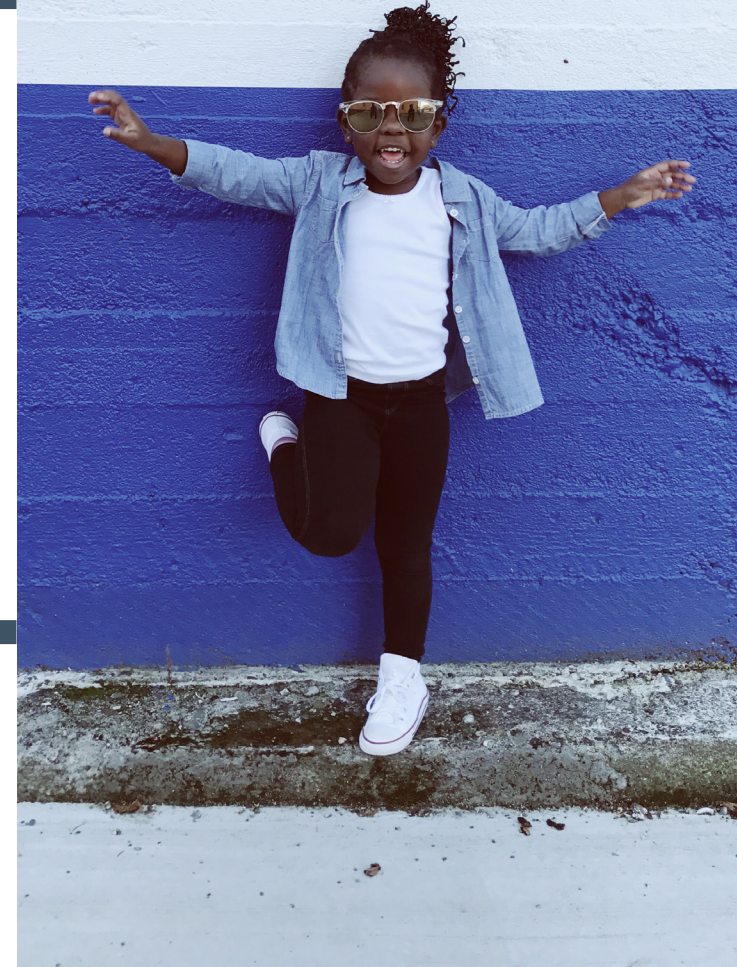
# WE CAN ALL REDUCE THE RISK OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE



**A bright future for Kentucky depends on our ability to promote the health and well-being of our youngest generation. The more we know about how to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse, the more likely we are to have healthy children, families and communities.**



**1-800-CHILDREN**



*Anyone who suspects child abuse is required to call the reporting hotline at 1.877.KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331.*

*If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call 911.*

**www.pcaky.org**



*This brochure is made available in part by a grant from the Child Victim's Trust Fund.*

*This project is funded in part or in whole with state or federal funds through a contract (#PON2 736 19000018008) with the KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services.*

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*Being a parent can be tough...*  
**Call 1-800-CHILDREN**  
(244-5373)

*Confidential helpline of support, encouragement, information and local referrals for parents and caregivers.*

*Promoting the well-being of our youngest generation.*



## What is child sexual abuse?

Because neither children nor youth can consent, all sexual activity with them is child sexual abuse, including:

- ✿ fondling
- ✿ masturbation
- ✿ intercourse
- ✿ exposing oneself to a child
- ✿ showing or engaging a child in pornography
- ✿ engaging in obscene phone calls, text messages, or other digital communication



**1 in 10 children will experience sexual abuse before the age of 18; and 90% of the time, the child/family will know the abuser.**



## What are the warning signs?

When adults identify and act on warning signs of child sexual abuse they can protect children. Warning signs include:

- ✿ when children have inappropriate knowledge of sexual behavior for their age
- ✿ when children make sexually explicit drawings
- ✿ when children exhibit a sudden change in behavior or school performance
- ✿ when children engage in highly sexualized play or activities (e.g., simulated sexual actions with toys, pets or other children)
- ✿ when children are fearful of a specific person or place

## What can parents and caregivers do?

Parents and caregivers can help prevent child sexual abuse in several ways. Most importantly, start with becoming comfortable talking regularly with children in your care about all aspects of sexuality, including:

- ✿ Teaching children the proper words for their body parts (e.g. vagina, penis, buttocks, breasts), and make sure they understand certain parts of their body are private.
- ✿ Explaining the difference between privacy (doing something by themselves, but that you know about) and secrets (doing something that you don't know about), and what kind of secrets are OK to keep, like birthday presents, and what kind are not OK to keep.
- ✿ Explaining what respectful and safe relationships are, both in person and on-line (to include all electronic devices with access to the internet).
- ✿ Discussing and monitor your children's media, photo sharing and technology use – parents should always know what their children are watching on television and online.
- ✿ Telling children not to look at other people's private parts, and other people are not to look at their private parts (including in person, online or via cell text message).

**Organizations need to keep kids safe, too. Check out our online tools, located on [www.pcaky.org](http://www.pcaky.org), before leaving your child in the care of others.**

*We can and do solve difficult problems by working together to create lasting and meaningful change.*



*When adults and children are empowered with the right tools and information, child sexual abuse can be prevented.*