

Preventing Sexual Abuse Outline

- Why should adoptive and foster parents and relative caregivers learn about the risks for sexual abuse of children in our community and how to prevent it?
- How can parents or caregivers tell the difference between normal childhood curiosity and behaviors that may signal a problem?
- What are some warning signs that might give parents or caregivers a clue to dig deeper into problematic behaviors they observe?
- If a child is showing some of these concerning behaviors, what are some practical and supportive ways caregivers can respond?
- Why is it preventative for parents and caregivers to use correct anatomical terms with kids?
- Can you offer a few practical suggestions for parents and caregivers to get more comfortable with correct terminology, if they find this an obstacle to equipping and educating their kids?
- What signs should parents and caregivers be on the lookout for – things that may suggest a child has been abused?
 - 5 categories: fear/anxiety, depression, sexual acting out, attachment
 - Emphasize that no single sign proves abuse but patterns and context matter.
- If a caregiver suspects abuse, what steps should they take?
- What is the parents' or caregiver's role once they have reported to the proper authorities?
- What are some everyday preventative practices families can put in place to keep kids safe while also allowing them to grow in healthy ways?
 - Protective, not paranoid
 - Open communication in the home
 - Supervision by safe adults
 - Safe boundaries in the home
 - Teaching consent and respect
 - Modeling healthy relationships
- Any last words of advice for adoptive parents, foster parents, or relative caregivers about protecting their kids from sexual abuse?