

samara

Prevention of Sexual Abuse
and Violence

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Child Protection and Prevention Work

Since 1992 psychologists, social workers and kindergarten teachers of our non governmental organization work with children, teachers and parents in Austria and other countries.

We offer "Child protection and Prevention" workshops for girls and boys in schools, kindergartens and children's homes.

We give lectures for teachers and parents on this subject.

Child care institutions consult us for implementing structures that make their institutions safer for children.

For the "Austrian Development Agency" we recently finished a one year Education Project: "Prevention of Violence and Sexual Abuse in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

In post war societies children, especially orphans, have a higher risk to become victims of all kinds of violence. Therefore they need extra protection and prevention services.

Our Workshops at Schools and Kindergartens

"Should I have my daughter take self defense classes?" "What about our son? He thinks, that he is James Bond, and nothing bad will ever happen to him."

During our workshops about prevention of violence and sexual abuse children and adolescents tell us about their experiences with all kinds of violence.

These questions and stories tell us that discussions of sexual violence have to be included as part of a child's development nowadays.

There are many ways for parents to empower and help protect their children.

The goals of our prevention workshops are to increase the child's self confidence and to learn to trust his or her own instincts.

Your instincts are often a good warning sign.

They let you recognize when a situation becomes critical and when a violation occurs.

It is beneficial to have your daughter or son attend a prevention program at their school. The fact that your child's school offers preventive programs shows that the school is of high quality. The school setting with its everyday routines is an ideal place for them.

Girls and boys attend our workshops separately at schools. In kindergartens they are educated together and the parents are welcome to participate.

The main part of our workshops include role playing daily situations with borders being violated, stories of threats and violence.

Children train to get adequate help and practice their self defense reactions.

The goal is for children get prepared better for real life situations.

The best precaution for teachers and parents against sexual abuse is to keep the dialogue open and let a child know, that he or she may approach this subject openly.

Questions of teachers and parents

"Should I speak to my child directly about sexual abuse or should I just indicate this subject? I don't want my child to mistrust all adults after such a conversation. How should I do that?"

Children at the age of six and above should know, that there is such a thing as sexual abuse. It is best to talk about it in a gentle, but clear way.

Children will often use phrases such as "Something dumb or something weird happened to me". It is best for parents to continue in the child's form of communication.

It is not sensible to bring up sexual abuse in a conversation at the same time as the positive subject of falling in love. That may be discussed at another time.

It is also good practice for parents not to bring these questions up at bedtime.

"My daughter would never follow a stranger, but in her class boys are harassing the girls and using abusive language. The teacher says the child needs to take care of it herself."

When speaking of harassment between children, the term "sexual abuse" is usually not used, because the difference in power and/or authority is not as big as between an adult and a child.

However, when sexual harassment occurs, it is imperative that the teacher takes action. Active intervention is very important in order to effectively stop boys who want to show off through the use of aggressive behavior towards their peers.