



Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

Strategies for schools and communities which focus on potential victims, perpetrators, and social norms



1. *Prevention education and student assistance.*

- Provided in schools and community groups
- Children understand appropriate and inappropriate behaviors



- Adolescents receive information on healthy affection and sexuality
- Provide student access to clinics, support groups, and referrals
- Students learn social skills such as empathy, personal boundaries, coping, conflict management, and developing a support system.

3. *Public awareness and empowerment.*

- Prevalence of child abuse and neglect
- Resources for primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention and intervention
- Messages to counteract victim blaming and denial
- Information for individuals to influence public policy



2. *Comprehensive training for school staff, parents, and professionals.*

- Recognizing and reporting
- Responding sensitively to disclosure
- Making school a safe place
- Screening staff and volunteers
- Recognizing perpetrator behavior of students or adults
- Establishing and reinforcing personal boundaries
- Fostering empathy and bonding
- How to talk about sexuality and personal safety
- How to foster partnerships between schools, law enforcement, social services, and community organizations
- How to provide personal safety prevention education



For more information please contact:

Cindy Wakefield
Prevention Initiatives
303/866-6750
Colorado Department of Education
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

