

Visit our website at [www.pcaky.org](http://www.pcaky.org) for additional child sexual abuse prevention resources including these suggestions on how to increase the safety of your child:

- Recognizing Child Sexual Abuse—Know the Facts
- How to Choose a Safe Caregiver
- As a Parent, What Can I Do to Reduce the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse?
- Understanding Healthy Sexual Development: What to Expect as Your Child Grows and Matures
- When a Child Talks About Sexual Abuse
- Internet Safety Toolkit
- Risk Reduction Protocol in Youth Serving Organizations



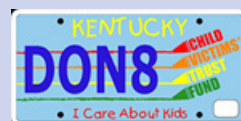
Need to talk to someone?  
**Call 1-800-CHILDREN**  
(244-5373)



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(244-5373)

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

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# Preventing Child Sexual Abuse



## What is child sexual abuse?

- Any type of contact with a child for sexual gratification or pleasure
- May include:
  - Touching a child's private parts
  - Having a child touch an adult or other child's private parts
  - Having sex with a child
  - Showing a child pornography
  - Taking sexual pictures of a child

## As a parent, what can I do to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse?

(Please review the tip sheet located at [pcaky.org](http://pcaky.org) for complete details.)

- Listen to your children
- Make sure your children know you love them
- Encourage your children to talk about their feelings
- Teach your children what parts of their bodies are private
- Tell your children it is ok to say "No." Nobody has the right to touch them in their private area
- Get as much information as possible about other caregivers
- Never leave your children with someone you do not trust
- Be involved and know what is going on with your child
- Teach your child how to safely use the internet
- For more information, call 1-800-CHILDREN, visit [www.pcaky.org](http://www.pcaky.org) or your local Child Advocacy Center at [www.kacac.org](http://www.kacac.org)

## Indicators of child sexual abuse

(Please review the tip sheet, "Recognizing Child Sexual Abuse—Know the Facts" located at [pcaky.org](http://pcaky.org) for more information.)

Some behavioral or physical signs you may see in your child include:

### Behavioral:

- Difficulty getting along with others
- Acting younger than their age
- Sexual behaviors or play
- Knowledge of sexual behaviors inconsistent with their age or development
- Fighting or being out of control
- Drug usage
- Sudden refusal to participate in recreational activities they normally enjoy

### Physical

Although most children will show no physical evidence of trauma, some may have:

- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Bruising or bleeding from the genitals or anus (private parts)
- Presence of semen
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Torn, stained or bloody underwear
- Pain or itching in genital area (private parts)
- Pregnancy



## What to do if you think a child has been sexually abused:

(Please review the tip sheet, "When a Child Talks About Sexual Abuse" located at [pcaky.org](http://pcaky.org) for more information.)

- Respect children by listening to them—not criticizing them—and be patient with what they are telling you
- Be calm in what you say and how you act
- Understand children may not know how to describe exactly what happened
- Do not promise "not to tell" anyone but rather promise to try to help them
- Seek medical attention for the child
- Seek counseling for the child from a professional trained in child sexual abuse treatment
- Don't blame yourself. Sexual abuse is a sad fact in our society
- Make a report to child protective services at 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331
- You may also call your local police to make a report

## Child sexual abuse statistics:

- One in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused by age 18
- 90% of the time, a child victim knows the abuser
- 88% of child sexual abuse is never reported to authorities
- 34% of people who sexually abuse children are family members
- One in five teens who use the internet receive unwanted sexual messages

*Source: National Sexual Violence Resource Center*

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 **Prevent Child Abuse**  
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