

Building a Prevention Team[™] of Caregivers

If your child had a peanut allergy, you would take the time to talk with all of their caregivers about the peanut reaction and how to prevent an episode. Child sexual assault is far more prevalent, yet parents struggle with speaking up to prevent it because they don't know how to start the conversation or are nervous/uncomfortable that they will be perceived as "high maintenance."

I would like to help parents overcome these barriers by providing practical tools to have conversations with caregivers. If every parent talks with every person, with whom they leave their child, about boundaries and body-safety, our children and communities will be safer. I know I've done my job when you wake up tomorrow morning and invite a caregiver onto your prevention team by having these conversation. I hope this tool is helpful. If you have questions, email me at <u>feather@parentingsafechildren.com</u> or join the conversation on <u>Facebook</u>.

Where are your Children?	Who Do They Spend Time With?	My Plan & Thoughts for Inviting Each Person onto Our Prevention Team
Example 1: School	Names: Joe Jackson, 3 rd grade teacher; Jane Nance, Principal; Jill in after-school care; Amanda speech tutoring	I'll tell the principal about the Parenting Safe Children workshop and ask to about their child sexual assault prevention policies and how they train their staff; I'll talk with Joey, the teacher, about our son's body-safety rules and how he will respect the teacher, but has the right to say, "no" if he ever feels unsafe. Same with Amanda and Jill. I'm kind of nervous, but have to go for it anyway! Will also mention that we keep surprises, but no secrets.
Example 2: Relatives	Names: Grammy and Grandpops	I'm most anxious about this because they love their hugs and grandpops tells our son to sit on his lap. I'll appeal to my mom's psychology background and tell her that we now know that when kids have consent for hugs and kisses, they are less vulnerable to sexual assault. I'll prime them by phone next weekend and plant the seed. Then when they come over, I'll remind them before the greeting to ask first. "May I have a hug? Or "Do you want a hug?"
Example 3: Parents of Child's Friends (Playdate)	Names: Amy & Spouse	Oh, man, what if they think I'm a helicopter parent or that I'm accusing them? Ok, just have to move toward it. Let me try this, "Thanks for inviting our daughter over. She's excited! Because we've never done a playdate together, how about we talk about what's important to each of us around playdates? I was hoping we could talk about screen time, food allergies, who will be supervising the kids, sexual play that kids sometimes get into, and whatever else you think is important."

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Now you try it! Here's to building homes, schools, and communities that are off-limits to child sexual assault.

Where are your Children?	Who Do They Spend Time With?	My Plan & Thoughts for Inviting Each Person onto Our Prevention Team
School	Names:	
Relatives	Names:	
Sports		
Places of Faith	Names:	
Friends of Family	Names:	
Parents of Child's	Names:	
Friend		
Nanny / Babysitter	Names:	
Summer Camp	Names:	
After School	Names:	
Programs		
Daycare	Names:	
Birthday Party	Names:	
Field / School Trips	Names:	
Music Lessons	Names:	
Sibling	Names:	
Therapy	Names:	
Tutors	Names:	
Doctors	Names:	
Other	Names:	