



School-Based Personal Safety Program

COCA developed the **School-Based Personal Safety Program** to support area schools' ability to comply with Ohio House Bill 19. Key requirements include: personal safety and assault prevention instruction, instruction and dating violence prevention, development of school policies prohibiting bullying, and providing training to students and school personnel about the policies.

COCA's program focuses on a variety of child abuse and bully prevention programs provided through staff trainings, workshops for parents and educational classroom presentations to children. Children learn abuse prevention and personal safety strategies and have opportunities to disclose current or previous abuse, bullying, and related problems. COCA helps schools develop policies related to child abuse and bullying, and provides consultation services upon request. The prevention programs help create safer schools where children don't fear teasing, bullying or violence, and can be more receptive to learning.

The program utilizes DVDs, interactive discussion and activities for children. Information on animal abuse and Internet safety is also discussed. Following the presentations, children are invited to talk individually with COCA's Prevention Educators to ask questions, or disclose information about their own abuse or other problems requiring adult intervention. School personnel, local authorities and community resources are utilized to provide needed intervention, treatment or support.

Since its inception in 1989, over 300,000 children have been served through classroom presentations in public, parochial and private schools. More than 5,000 school personnel have attended in-service trainings and over 4,300 parents have attended workshops to learn about their role and responsibilities in preventing abuse.

Through the affiliation with Talbert House, COCA provides direct referrals to Talbert House for children for mental health and substance use treatment, including prevention, education, therapy, case management and pharmacological management as needed.

COCA offers the following services to primary, elementary, middle and senior high schools:

Staff In-Service (1-4 hours)

- Strategies for identifying child abuse and bullying
- Crisis intervention techniques
- Review of legal rights and reporting responsibilities
- Preview of classroom presentations

Parent Education (1-2 hours)

- Strategies for communication between parents and children
- Parent role in prevention
- Effective responses to children in crisis
- Preview of classroom presentations

Children's Presentations (1 hour)

- Learn to recognize potentially dangerous situations
- Learn about child abuse, bullying behavior and internet safety
- Strategies for prevention
- Opportunities to disclose concerns
- Intervention and support referrals as appropriate

***For more information or to schedule your school, contact
Council on Child Abuse at (513) 684-7976.***

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