

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Stewards of Children

This 3-hour, nationally recognized, best practice program uses videos, workbook activities and discussion to engage and educate about child sexual abuse and how to keep children safe. College students, working professionals, volunteers at child-serving organizations and other staff at agencies and community-based organizations learn that child sexual abuse knows no socio-economic, cultural or racial boundaries. Through compelling stories from survivors of child sexual abuse of their trauma and healing, participants will learn how to develop practices to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The latest changes in mandated reporting laws will be reviewed.

PREREQUISITES SKILLS PARTICIPANT NEEDED

No prerequisite skills are needed. However the training is most appropriate for college students interested in careers in social work or as school teachers and who anticipate working in other child-serving organizations.

THE EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

Named a Noteworthy Program by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Service, *Stewards of Children* was developed by the Darkness to Light organization in collaboration with the National Children's Alliance and The National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center. This program has been shown to increase participants' knowledge, improve their attitudes and change their behavior over the long-term for increased safety of the children in their care.

LEARNING FACILITATION

The presentation includes Video, Lecture, Workbook, and Small Group Collaborative Exercises.

Objectives – Pre/Post Knowledge Survey will be given

1. Participants will understand the short and long term consequences of child sexual abuse.
2. Participants will articulate intervention strategies that prevent child sexual abuse.
3. Participants will identify a plan to effectively react to disclosures or suspicions of abuse

STUDENT IMPACT

Child Sexual Abuse has devastating consequences for child victims and their non-offending family members. Research has shown that child victims suffer from depression, anxiety, and PTSD. In addition untreated trauma from sexual abuse leads to debilitating personal and societal consequences. Most child sexual abuse happens in one-adult/one-child situations that are unobservable. Training adults to avoid placing children in these situations will dramatically reduce the risk for children.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Stewards of Children

- I. Building a Foundation
 - a. Coming to Terms with Sexual Abuse
 - b. Causing Power to Protect & Respond
 - i. Consciousness
 - ii. Choice
 - iii. Personal Power
 - iv. Relentless Compassion

- II. 7 Steps to Protecting our Children
 - a. Learn the Facts and Understand the Risks
 - i. Definition of Sexual Abuse
 - ii. Statistics
 - b. Minimize Opportunity
 - i. One Adult/One Child Situations
 - ii. Agency Policies
 - c. Talk about It
 - i. Talking to Children
 - ii. Talking to Adults
 - d. Stay Alert
 - i. Physical Signs
 - ii. Behavioral Signs
 - e. Make A Plan
 - i. Overreaction in Adults
 - ii. Support for Children
 - iii. Mandatory Reporting
 - f. Act on Suspicions – Agencies that can Offer Services
 - g. Get Involved – Breaking the Cycle of Silence.