

Is Your Community Prepared to Deal with Child Sex Abuse?

From The Sex-Wise Parent, by Dr. Janet Rosenzweig

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A fully prepared community has professional staff with appropriate training, formal coordination among systems and sufficient resources to serve a child and family in crisis and prevention resources. Use this checklist to assess your own community:

Prevention Efforts

Does your community support any comprehensive prevention programs ?

Child Assault Prevention	___ yes	___ no
Darkness to Light	___ yes	___ no
Every Person Influences Children	___ yes	___ no
The Green Dot	___ yes	___ no
Prevent Child Abuse America	___ yes	___ no
Stop It Now!	___ yes	___ no
Others?	___ yes	___ no

Do prevention programs move beyond targeting children to involve the entire community?

___ yes ___ no

Do your educational, faith-based or other community institutions offer support for parents to become both skilled and comfortable speaking with their children about sexuality?

___ yes ___ no

Staff Training:

Are all of the people who work with children in any capacity trained to recognize and report abuse? ___
yes ___ no

Have any Child Protection Staff completed specialized training in human sexuality and child sexual abuse? ___ yes ___ no

Are workers with this training the only ones assigned to investigate sexual abuse cases?

___ yes ___ no

Do law enforcement investigators have specialized training in human sexuality and forensic interviewing of children?

___ yes ___ no

Do the treatment professionals who purport to specialize in child sexual abuse have specialized training in child development, human sexuality and child sexual abuse?

yes no

Have the medical professionals assigned to provide crisis intervention and forensic medical examinations have completed specialized training in child sexual abuse?

yes no

Coordinated Professional Systems:

Do investigation protocols exist between CPS and Law Enforcement to minimize the number of time child victims are interviewed?

yes no

Is there a liaison between the family/civil court and the criminal court to coordinate services?

yes no

Have professionals in your community formed a multi-disciplinary team comprised at a minimum of law enforcement , medical p, child protection services and treatment professionals to plan an intervention to protect the child, sanction the offender and support the recovery of the victim and family?

yes no

Adequate Resources:

Are there enough investigators with specialized training in child sexual abuse so that one is always available?

yes no

Is there a pediatric forensic medical examination facility in your community?

yes no

If no, are there arrangements to use a child friendly medical facility in a nearby community?

yes no

Are treatment services affordable without regard to income or health insurance status?

yes no

Are treatment services available in a location accessible by public transportation?

yes no

Are treatment services provided outside of the 9-5 workday?

yes no