

Preventing Child Abuse

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To the Editor:

Re “[School Linked to Abuse Claims Will Replace All of Its Faculty](#)” (news article, Feb. 7):

I applaud the action taken by the Los Angeles Unified School District to replace the entire staff at Miramonte Elementary School after two teachers were arrested on accusations of sexual abuse. But an appropriate question should be asked: Wouldn't it be better if the adults responsible for the healthy development and safety of these students had been more informed and therefore more responsive sooner?

We must ensure that all adults receive training to recognize the grooming behavior of perpetrators. We must prevent scenarios that place adults in one-on-one situations with children. We must provide children with developmentally appropriate education about healthy sexuality and encourage them to let adults they trust know when they are in situations they find confusing.

We are all responsible for the prevention of child sexual abuse, and there should not be any confusion about that.

JAMES M. HMUROVICH
President and Chief Executive
Prevent Child Abuse America
Chicago, Feb. 8, 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/18/opinion/preventing-child-abuse.html?_r=1