

TALKING WITH KIDS ABOUT

SEX TRAFFICKING

Use Hypotheticals to Start the Conversation

WHAT IF...

- ...A cute boy or girl that you don't know sends you a friend request online?
- ...A stranger tells you that you are pretty and should model?
- ...Someone at school sends you a picture that makes you feel uncomfortable?
- ...You are offered a job that sounds too good to be true: good pay, no experience needed, and don't need to interview?

PHONE & INTERNET SAFETY

- Talk to kids about not accepting friend requests or talking to people online that they have not met in person, and how important it is not to meet someone in person that they met online.
- Let your kids know the importance of setting passwords on their phone and computers so people cannot access personal information.
- Check the settings on your kid's phone to make sure that it is not automatically revealing their location or other private information.



TALKING WITH KIDS ABOUT SEX TRAFFICKING

Education is one of the best ways for kids to be protected against potential traffickers. Talking to kids about sex trafficking can be intimidating and they may not want to hear it, but it is vital in keeping them safe.

COVER THE BASICS

DEFINING SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex Trafficking is when force, fraud, or coercion is used to cause someone to perform a commercial sex act. Any commercial sex act with a minor is sex trafficking, regardless of their personal willingness.

VICTIMS

Victims come from every background. Sex trafficking is not limited to a certain race, gender, age, or economic class. There are several factors that increase a child's risk, including truancy, homelessness, previous incarceration, frequent runaway, or history of sexual abuse.

TRAFFICKERS

Traffickers execute various recruitment and control tactics. Many recruit girls online, promising them love, affection, and wealth or coerce girls into "the life" through blackmail or sextortion.

BY 8 IS GREAT

If kids are not learning about sex from their parents they will be getting the information elsewhere – friends, older teens, movies, online, etc. When having the talk a few things to cover are:

- Biological terms for body parts
- Characteristics of healthy relationships
- Appropriate touch (*anything covered by a bathing suit is private/personal*)

BE PROACTIVE

Initiate small conversations with your kids throughout everyday activities. Don't wait for them to come to you with questions and concerns. Strike up conversations in the kitchen, in the car, etc. Let them know that you are comfortable talking about such topics and want to have open dialogue with them.