

Teach/Support Protective Factors & Strategies

Support these in other parents (and in ourselves)

1. **Nurturing and Attachment (and Awareness)**
2. Knowledge of child development (both hearing and d/hh)
3. Parental Resilience
4. Social Connections for parents
5. Concrete supports for families
6. Social/emotional competence of children

And in our kids: Do they...

1. Know what healthy relationships look like
2. Know they have a right to say no (ask questions, and TELL) and are developing as much language as possible
3. Have some social connections/trusted adults, a friend... **one caring adult can make a difference**
4. Effectively communicate day-to-day... Label feelings, mental states, body parts, secret/surprises, Story retell with beginning/middle/end
5. Understand their emerging sexuality
6. Are developing their intuition: beginning to recognize “risky” situations



*What makes a child safe also makes them successful... a goal we were already focused on.
A child learns best when feeling safe.*

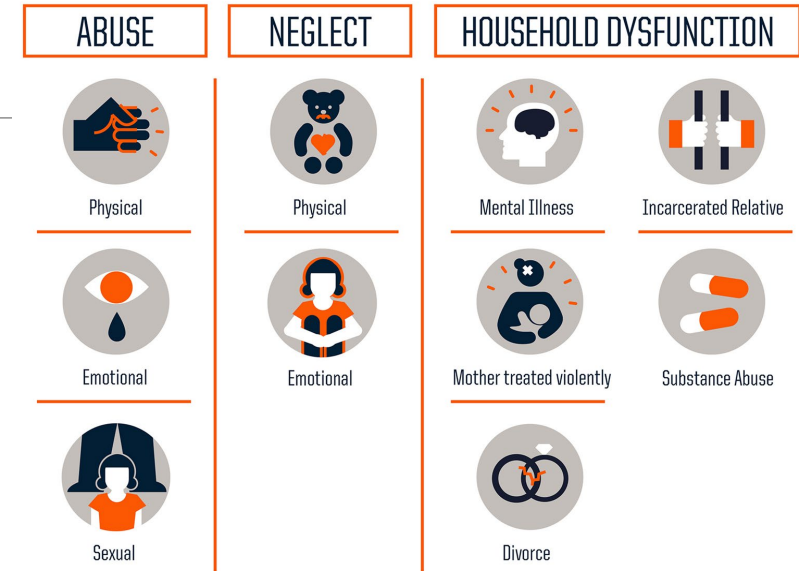
Storytelling: Our Why

Dr. Harold Johnson: a late-career legacy

- [D/hh child who grew up to be an audiologist](#)
- High School Boy in search of girlfriend
- Abuse “[In a Nice Family](#)”
- [Deaf/hh Plus student at school](#)

Breaking the taboo: ACES

The Good news is...



Attachment: The Secret Sauce

Serve and Return

Model, Notice and
Reflect

Magic Mirror Neurons

Learn more:

https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/issue/146/Supplement_3



What's NOT TRUE about Stranger Danger?



Our kids with any kind of differences, especially communication, are at the highest risk of abuse.

Anyone who gains our trust, time with our child, and control over them can bring the most benefit... or the most harm.

When are they most at risk?



Focus on Prevention: Awareness and Observation

Younger kids are most at risk:

Choose caregivers wisely

Know caregivers (who gets to be in the “circle of trust”?)

Ask Questions, don’t assume

Observe, check in often, note any changes in how your child looks, responds, or reacts

As kids grow, teach simple safety rules. And Practice.



Watch for red flags:

Behavior, Appearance, Physical

The Kidpower Protection Promise

“You are VERY important to me!

If you have a safety problem, I want to know –

even if I seem too busy,

even if someone we care about will be upset,

even if it is embarrassing,

even if you promised not to tell, and

even if you made a mistake.

Please tell me, and I will do everything in my power to help you

Safety Communication Skills...and Books!

Daily Check-in: Reassure you child/act like a Labrador when you see them!

Label and Use Words for Emotions/Mental states

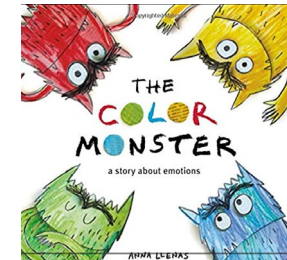
➤ Books are a great tool! [Vook Club](#)

Family Rule: Surprises, not secrets

Safety alert word/sign

Making and keeping age appropriate friends

- What is a friend? What do they do together?
- Our DHH kids can be socially naïve



Safety with Touch

In the Kidpower text entitled [Earliest Teachable Moments: Personal Safety for Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers](#) the rule for touch or play for fun or affection should...

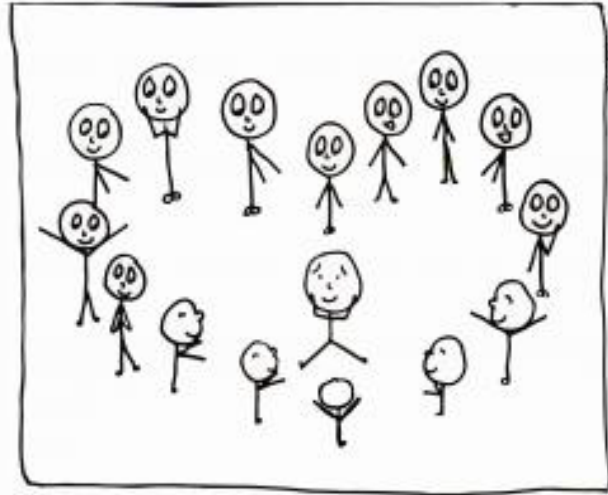
- ...be safe
- ...the choice of each person (Consent)
- ...allowed by the adult in charge
- ...never be kept a secret.

This safety rule can grow with a child into adulthood!



Prevention: Establishing a “Circle of Trust”

Who gets to be alone with your child



What are the safety policies at school, camp, childcare, church?
Do your friends/neighbors have the same safety rules as you do?
Who else will be there (sleepovers)? How do we check in with our kids on return?

What can parent support groups focus on?

- ☐ What, why and how “People Safety” can be added to your child’s life.
- ☐ Know about reducing risk factors.
- ☐ Teach parents about the “Circle of Trust” for their child.
- ☐ Use strategies and resources to teach children about their safety and wellbeing.
- ☐ What if the unthinkable happens?
Know how to observe, understand and **report** (O.U.R.)
Know who to call.
- ☐ *Use your child’s IEP or 504 to reduce their risks for abuse.



Strategy: Role-playing for Independence

Older kids:

Increasing their responsibility or independence with guidance

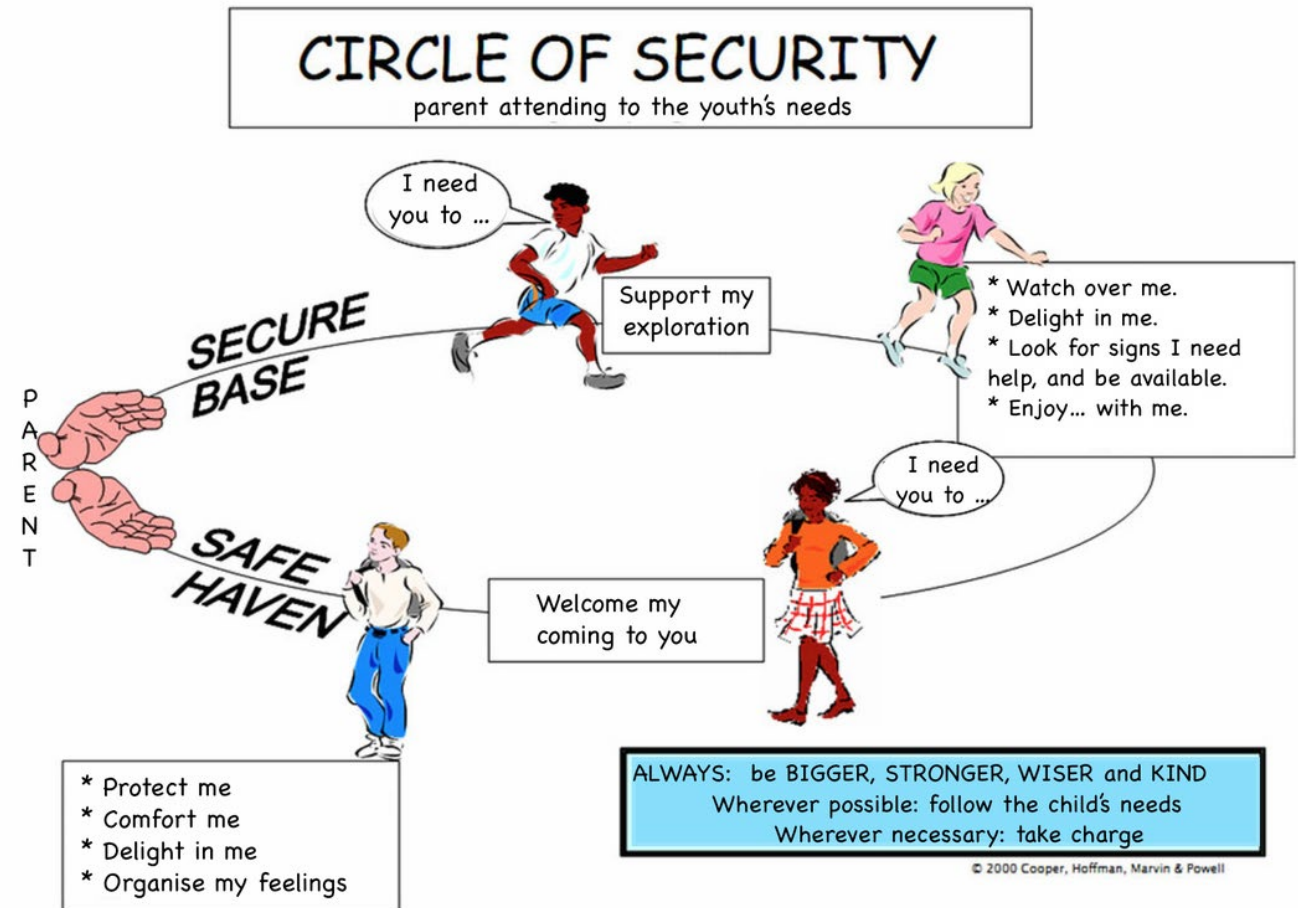
Keep up the checking in

What if? Teach back. 15 feet behind

Agreements for digital devices

Driving as a rite of passage

Teaching kids to trust their intuition



How should you respond if a child tells you they have been abused?

- ☐ Accept the child's information as true.
- ☐ Model emotional steadiness. (Afterwards, reach out!)
- ☐ Confirm your care for child; comfort them.
- ☐ Assure child it is NEVER EVER their fault.
- ☐ Ask open ended not leading questions.
- ☐ Reaffirm that you love and care for them.

7



Report! Call Childhelp for assistance, then Police, CAC

Abuse Stops Here: Making Room for Joy

Families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing can be overwhelmed, feel alone, worry about your child's communication and so many things throughout your journey.

AND as parents, we also know how important it is to just celebrate your child! See all the many gifts your child brings, to take time to enjoy each other, and to share your joy with others who understand.



I WILL
KEEP YOU
Safe...



YOU ARE
MY JOY!

Learn more about
safeguarding your DHH
child. How does finding
joy relate to safety?

**The O.U.R. Children's
Safety Project**



Resources available

[Child Abuse & Neglect: Helping Parents Talk to Children](#)

Council for Exceptional Children: [Policy on the Prevention of and Response to Maltreatment](#)

Where could your school/organization improve?

[Recognizing Grooming](#) (and other articles in our H&V Library and on the OUR site) <https://hv-library.com/our/>

[O.U.R. Children Project: Advocating for IFSP and IEP Document](#)

[Kidpower, Teen Power, Full Power International](#) Web resources

[Earliest Teachable Moments: Personal Safety for Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers](#) – *Kidpower*

Childhood Safety: What Parents of DHH Kids Should Know



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(Booklist and discussion on safety topics)
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What is needed? What's next?

This year/This month I will:



“Safety and security don’t just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear.” —

Nelson Mandela



Please fill out our quick survey!

See you on Tues, Nov 10th!