

# Erin's Law–Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education

## Signs and Symptoms of Younger Children

exhibit regressive behavior	resist removing clothes at appropriate times	ask other children to behave sexually or play sexual games
Show knowledge not typical of young child	Mimic adult-like sexual behavior with toys	be clingy or show separation anxiety
be irritable or withdrawn	have sleep difficulties	have tantrums that are frequent and last 15 minutes or longer

## Signs and Symptoms of Older Children

exhibit poor hygiene	act out sexually	exhibit eating disorders
abuse substances	run away	be depressed and withdraw socially
attempt suicide or express suicidal ideation	engage in other risky behaviors	show a sudden change in behavior

## What to do if a child discloses to me?

### PLEASE DO NOT:

- Express shock, disgust, anger, or panic
- Investigate, probe or ask questions

### PLEASE DO:

- Let them tell you.
- Let them know they were right to come forward.
- Let them know it was not their fault.
- Let them know you will get someone to help them immediately.
- Acknowledge any and all feelings they have.
- Give them options and encourage them to make their own decisions.

## Action Plan

Inform the Social Worker/Psychologist/Principal of the disclosure IMMEDIATELY.

DCFS: 1-800-25-ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)

DuPage County Children's Advocacy Center 630-407-2750 (630-407-2400 after hours)

## Resources/Additional information

- Darkness to Light 1-866-367-5444
- YWCA Crisis line 630-971-3927
- RAINN(sexual assault hotline) 1-800-656-4673