## **Contact Us**

Administrative Hours: Mon. — Fri., 9am-5pm

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## **Testimonials**

"Using the puppet show to present the very carefully written script is a wonderful way to catch our kids' attention and make a very tough subject easily accepted... The presenters put everyone at ease, all questions are answered in a delicate way but also so our kids get the safety knowledge so critical for them to know." — Elementary school guidance counselor

"As a guidance counselor... I have seen first-hand how important the CAP empowerment strategies are in keeping our children safe. On more than one occasion, a child has come to me following a CAP workshop, to talk about a serious situation they were involved in and to ask for help."

- Elementary school guidance counselor

## **Mission**

PEI Kids is dedicated to promoting and maintaining a safe environment for all children.

PEI Kids works with the child, family, and caregiver to provide prevention, intervention, and advocacy programs relating to personal safety, sexual abuse, and the overall well-being of the child.

## **PEI Kids Services**

#### Prevention

- School-based prevention education focused on child assault, child sexual abuse, and bully prevention
- Community-based outreach and education to prevent child sexual abuse

#### Intervention

- Counseling and support groups for child victims of sexual abuse and non-offending family members
- Counseling for children, 12 years of age and under, with sexual behavior problems
- Juvenile offender and anger management services for at-risk youth

#### **Support Services**

• Family transportation and visitation services for children in foster care and their families



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# Prevention Education Services



Working every day to keep children safe



## **Program Overview**

PEI Kids' Prevention Education Services seek to prevent violence and abuse in the lives of children. Our School-based Prevention Education Programs address critical topics, including child assault, sexual abuse prevention, bullying prevention, personal safety, and cyber-safety. As the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention (CAP) designee for Mercer County for more than 25 years, PEI Kids presents prevention education workshops to over 13,000 pre-K to eighth grade students annually, as well as their parents and educators, in more than 70 Mercer County schools.

In 2011, PEI Kids was designated the lead agency of the *Greater Mercer Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse*, part of the statewide and national *Enough Abuse* campaign. The campaign's objective is to teach all adults in Mercer County how to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse. Coalition members represent every Mercer County municipality and all sectors of the community. Trained *Enough Abuse* facilitators present workshops for organizations, employers, schools, and any group interested in learning how to protect children in our community.



## **Service Goals**

School-based Prevention Education Programs

- Teach children their rights and the rights of others
- Provide informative workshops for teachers and parents so they can reinforce the safety concepts with their children
- Educate students about sensitive topics, such as child assault, sexual abuse, and personal boundaries
- Provide students "Review Time," allowing for one-on-one time with a Facilitator to reinforce prevention concepts; this is when children may disclose incidents of assault
- Working with schools, link students who disclose abuse with appropriate support/ resources
- Create a safer school climate by reducing and preventing bullying

Greater Mercer Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

- Through the Enough Abuse campaign, educate Mercer County adults on how to prevent, recognize, and respond appropriately to child sexual abuse
- Increase community awareness of the epidemic of child sexual abuse
- Increase adult comfort in communicating with children appropriately
- Teach the difference between appropriate and inappropriate sexual behaviors as children develop
- Facilitate a coordinated community response to child sexual abuse

## **Service Results**

School-based Prevention Education programs

- Students learn personal safety skills and abuse and bully-prevention strategies
- Educators and adults reinforce strategies with children
- Students who disclose abuse or bullying are provided support
- A safer school climate will develop as bully and child assault prevention strategies are practiced

Greater Mercer Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

- Increased community awareness of how to protect children from child sexual abuse
- Increased comfort in communicating with children about sexual abuse
- Utilization of strategies for preventing child sexual abuse
- Increased knowledge of how to respond to suspected child sexual abuse or a disclosure of abuse

## **Eligibility**

Our *School-based Prevention Education Programs* are available for Pre-K through 8th grade students in every school district in Mercer County. Public, private, and charter-school institutions are encouraged to participate.

Enough Abuse workshops are free to the public and are available to community groups in Mercer County upon request.