

Crisis Intervention for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse

PEI Kids' Crisis Intervention program is the only one of its kind in the region – serving over 6,000 child victims of sexual abuse since 1987.

Our Crisis Intervention program provides immediate, professional counseling for child victims of sexual abuse, ages 3-18. We help children heal and recover from the trauma of sexual abuse through one-on-one Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), play therapy for very young children, and through support-groups with child victims and their supportive, non-offending caregivers.

All counseling is provided by our professional, licensed counselors and services are provided at no charge to clients or their families. Through individual counseling, education, and post-counseling support, children heal, recover, resume normal, healthy functioning, and restore their sense of hope.



Youth Exhibiting Problematic Sexual Behavior

In New Jersey, 15%-30% of child sexual abuse cases referred to Children's Advocacy Centers and Regional Diagnostic & Treatment Centers involve an initiator/ aggressor who is a minor.

In 2024, New Jersey launched a coordinated statewide response to address problematic sexual behavior (PSB) among youth. PEI Kids was selected as one of eight agencies to implement this statewide effort to ensure that all child victims and child initiators of sexual abuse and their families have access to specialized mental health services.

Treatment is available for adolescent youth (age 13-17) and for pre-teen children (age 7-12) in group or family format. All services are provided at no charge to families and are available for youth referred by schools, DCP, CMO, juvenile probation, self-referrals made by parents/caregivers, and for adjudicated youth referred by Court.



Success Story

Mrs. D brought her 7-year-old daughter, Emma, to PEI Kids after learning she had been inappropriately touched by an adult at her school. Mrs. D knew about PEI Kids because she, too, came to PEI Kids for counseling as a child after having a similar experience. Because Emma is on the autism spectrum and has developmental delays, her speech and vocabulary are limited, and the outcomes of talk-based therapy were uncertain.

Today, Mrs. D explains, “[Emma is] doing a lot better with therapy. She knows how to identify her body parts. She understands healthy boundaries. She can assert herself now and say ‘Stop, No!’ when she’s not comfortable.”

These are amazing accomplishments for Emma who continues to receive services. Given her cognitive delays, Emma will receive services for an extended period to allow time to reinforce the strategies she’s learned in therapy. Mom explains, “The services she receives at PEI Kids are phenomenal! [Emma] has come a long way since she started working with Dr. Brooks and has a bright future. I couldn’t ask for more.”

*Names are abbreviated to protect the identities of sexual assault victims.

“

The services she receives at PEI Kids are phenomenal! Emma has come a long way since she started and has a bright future. I couldn’t ask for more.

”



Lifting kids out
of harm's way.

