

Kids Have Rights

Kids Have Rights (KHR) is a prevention program of the Ionia Montcalm Secure and Friendly Child Advocacy Center (IM SAFE CAC). Our program educates and empowers students, school staff, parents and caregivers to recognize, prevent, and stop child sexual abuse. The *Kids Have Rights* team has a breadth of classroom experience.

Kids Have Rights partners with elementary schools throughout the county to provide body safety education to children in kindergarten through the 4th grade. The curriculum is based on research and best practices in prevention and is informed by the expertise of professionals in the field as well as program educators. Through interactive, engaging classroom lessons, KHR empowers students to attend to, value, and share their feelings. Students are taught how to recognize touches and situations that are, or maybe, unsafe, and provided with the language and support needed to seek help from a Safe Adult when needed.

The safety of children in our community is not a responsibility we place on their shoulders alone. *Kids Have Rights* provides school staff, along with parents and caregivers with education and resources on the warning signs of child sexual abuse, how to effectively listen and respond to a disclosure, reporting suspected abuse, and how to normalize and continue the conversation surrounding body safety with the children in their lives. When a child knows that they have adults in their lives who will listen to them, who will believe them, and who will help them, they are willing to tell their story free of hesitation or fear.

KHR educators present a 30 – 60 minute lesson (dependent upon grade level) which is reinforced by subsequent mini-lessons taught by the classroom teacher. Classroom teachers are given an instructive video, an Educator's Guide, and answer keys. They are taught the warning signs of child sexual abuse, how to effectively listen and respond appropriately to a disclosure of abuse, and how to report suspected abuse.

Supplemental materials are sent home so that parents/caregivers may work with their child to reinforce lessons and increase their knowledge and comfort in talking to their child about body safety. Parents/caregivers are taught the warning signs of child sexual abuse and how to listen and respond appropriately to their child.

Kids Have Rights knows that it is only through working collectively and consistently that we can stop the silent epidemic of child sexual abuse. When a child knows that they have adults in their lives who will listen to them, who will believe them, and who will help them, they are willing to tell their story free of hesitation or fear.

Overview of Curriculum

- Introduction
 - 2:00 min video explaining that Kids Have Rights over their bodies
- 3 groups of people
 - Know very well, kind of know, don't know
- Rules of being a Safe Adult
 - Examples of Safe Adults
 - Bookmark activity (2nd-4th)
- 3 types of touches, feelings associated with each touch & examples of each
 - Safe
 - Not Sure
 - Not Safe
- More rules
 - Never My Fault
 - Not In Trouble
 - Safe vs. Unsafe Secrets
- Video (3rd & 4th grade only)
 - Discussion questions after
- Conclusion
 - Any questions from students