

Summary & Discussion Guide:

Module 9 – Student to Student - Boundaries – Elementary School

30-40% of childhood sexual abuse happens at the hands of other minors. (Source 1, 2, 3, 4)

Why Children may touch each other's private parts... (Source 1, 5, 6)

- Natural and healthy exploration between children of similar age, size and development level
- Reflecting bad boundaries that they've been exposed to
- Lack of social filters due to cognitive or behavioral disabilities
- Re-enacting sexual abuse that's happened or is still happening to them
- They have a sexual behavior problem that requires treatment

Establish Policies and Guidelines

- Bathrooms should be supervised during all hours that students have access. (Source 1)
- When more than one student has access, bathroom supervisors should be positioned at the door looking in toward the sinks. (Source 1)
- Bathrooms should provide privacy for all students...regardless of age. (Source 1)
 - No more than one student in a stall
 - No stall doors – students should use the bathroom one at a time
- All unoccupied areas should be locked when not in use.
 - Classrooms, theaters, labs, locker rooms, storage facilities
 - Students should never be given keys or access codes
- Assigned seating plans on busses when transporting students of differing ages or developmental levels on the same bus.
- Programs should be designed for students of similar ages and developmental levels. (Source 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Student-to-Student mentoring programs should include constant adult supervision. (Source 1)
 - Minimizes the change of directly or inadvertently creating a power differential.

Reflection Question:

1. Where do your policies and practices lack clarity about student boundaries and the expected consistent response to allegations of student-to-student sexual abuse?



Sources

1. Diane Cranley, *8 Ways to Create their Fate: Protecting the Sexual Innocence of Children in Youth-Serving Organizations* (Mustang: Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC), 225-234.
2. Cynthia Simpson, Rebecca K. Odor, and Saba Masho, *Childhood Sexual Assault Victimization in Virginia* (2004): 1.
3. David Finkelhor, Heather Hammer, and Andrea J. Sedlak, *Sexually Assaulted Children: National Estimates and Characteristics*, NISMART, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (August 2008): 2.
4. David Finkelhor and Jennifer Dziuba-Leatherman, "Children as Victims of Violence: A National Survey," *Pediatrics* 94, no. 4 (October 1994): 414.
5. Toni Cavanagh Johnson, *Helping Children with Sexual Behavior Problems: A Guidebook for Professionals and Caregivers* (San Diego: Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, 2014).
6. Toni Cavanagh Johnson, *Understanding Children's Sexual Behaviors: What's Natural and Healthy* (San Diego: Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, 2013).