

Happy Bear Program Overview



Since 1992, Family Service & Guidance Center (FSGC) has been taking its cuddly costumed character Happy Bear into classrooms, school assemblies and a variety of settings to teach children about a subject that isn't always easy to talk about: sexual abuse. With the help of a highly trained FSGC staff member and the children attending the program, Happy Bear learns about "good touch" (such as a nice hug), "bad touch" (hitting) and "mixed-up touch" (sexual abuse). The information is presented in a way that is age-appropriate, nonthreatening and easily understood by the children.

Designed for children ages four to eight, this interactive and fun program not only creates awareness among children, teacher and parents who attend, but it teaches perhaps the most valuable message of all: protection of one's self and prevention of sexual abuse. Children learn what to do if they experience "bad" or "mixed-up touches." Presenters never name body parts, but refer to "body parts you cover with your bathing suits."

Through school, FSGC sends a letter to parents in advance of Happy Bear's visit to their child's classroom, allowing parents to call and ask questions or discuss concern they might have. Parents also have the option of not having their child attend. Finally, parents are always encouraged to attend so they can better understand Happy Bear's important message and talk openly with their child.

For more information or to arrange a Happy Bear visit, contact Diane Wishall, 785.232.7965.

Sincerely,

Diane L. Wishall

Diane Wishall
Happy Bear's Teacher



Happy Bear



FAMILY SERVICE &
GUIDANCE CENTER

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