



DID YOU KNOW...

4 OUT OF 5 CHILDREN EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR BULLYING.

EIGHT OUT OF 10 WILL EXPERIENCE THIS AT SOME POINT IN THEIR SCHOOL LIVES, AND ROUGHLY 25 PERCENT WILL EXPERIENCE THIS OFTEN.

83% OF GIRLS HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY HARASSED

78% OF BOYS HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY HARASSED

THE MOST COMMONLY REPORTED FORM OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT WAS UNWANTED PHYSICAL TOUCHING

OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY HARASSED, 90% WERE HARASSED BY OTHER STUDENT

Talking to your student about Sexual Harassment

This can be a hard topic to talk about! With these tips, the conversation will hopefully be easier, and lead to ongoing open communication between you and your student.

What is Sexual Harassment? Sexual Harassment is defined as any unwanted or unwelcome behaviors of a sexual nature. Think flirting behaviors- ask your child for some examples!

Here are some tips for talking to your school-age kids about sexual harassment:

1. No matter what, you need to stay calm as you have this conversation you freak out, they may think there is something wrong and may not feel safe or comfortable talking with you.
2. Ask them if they've heard the words "sexual harassment." Be ready for their response because they may know way more than you ever imagined!
3. Ask them for their top three lessons from the presentation and some examples. Or, what new information they learned. You can use the attached outline as an information guide in your conversation.
4. Regardless of what they say, explain to them these two things:
 - You are open and willing to talking about uncomfortable topics
 - People should respect each other's boundaries
5. Use bullying as entry into the conversation if it is more comfortable. Most kids understand bullying – what it is, why people do it and what to do if it happens to them or their friend.
6. Explain that consequences that can occur. Remind them that the consequences can be as little as a referral and as extreme as expulsion or legal action.
7. Never be afraid to tell your children you are uncomfortable talking about something. It will explain your starts and stops and is wonderful modeling.
8. **Reach out for help if you need it!** Parenting can be hard, your school counselors and the Julie Valentine Center are here to help!