OUR VERY SPECIAL BODIES

A Children's Book to Help Reduce the Risk of Sexual Abuse By Kevin M Powell PhD

The more **knowledge** children have about their bodies, their surrounding environment, and who and how to tell, the lower the risk for victimization.

Who is it for?

This children's book is for Parents to read to their *Preschool, Kindergarten* and *Primary School Age Children.*

The Purpose of this Book is PREVENTION

To increase children's knowledge about their bodies and enhance communication with their parents (loving caregivers), in order to reduce the risk of sexual abuse. It is a story about two young sisters and their brother learning about their very special bodies.

Why is this an Important Children's Book for Parents?

Children's books that have been published on the topic of sexual abuse prevention are often oriented for older children, with lengthy narratives and concepts that are beyond the attention span and cognitive/ language development of 3-7 year old's. The few books that have been written specifically for younger children describe private parts in general terms without using pictures or names.

Our Very Special Bodies includes:

- Information about 'private parts' presented in a concrete, straight-forward manner in which *children have* an opportunity to see pictures and hear the names of their special body parts.
- Specific questions that provide parents with opportunities to discuss situations and people specific to their child's living environment that promote safety and reduce risk.
- Fun, interactive, multi-sensory story where children are not just listening to the story, but actively participating by pointing, touching, dancing, answering questions, and talking about family-specific norms/expectations.
- Note to Parents (Loving Caregivers) to ensure that parents are utilizing this book in a manner that considers the specific needs and developmental level of their child and "what if" scenarios, which parents can talk to their children about as they age.

Our Very Special Bodies can assist parents in creating a family norm in which their children will openly talk and ask questions about anything related to their very special bodies.

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