



Tennessee Department of Human Services
Personal Safety Curriculum Notification

Since 1985, Tennessee law has required that children in child care agencies receive annual instruction in personal safety, including child sexual abuse prevention. The personal safety curriculum shall include a Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) recognized component on the prevention of child abuse.

Public Chapter 1032 passed by the General Assembly in 2008 requires that child care agencies have a personal safety curriculum, including a child sexual abuse component, for children enrolled in the agency, and that parents/legal guardians be informed about the curriculum, methods and terminology that will be used in teaching children about personal safety. TDHS was directed to provide guidelines for this curriculum, but individual child care agencies may choose a curriculum that accomplishes the same goal, and may use different terminology in the curriculum. The child care agency is required to allow parents/legal guardians to review and ask questions about the curriculum, and to meet with representatives of the child care agency if they have questions.

In addition, the child care agency must obtain from parents/legal guardians a form acknowledging that they have been notified of the child sexual abuse/personal safety curriculum being used by the child care agency in which the child is enrolled. A copy of the form is required to be maintained in the child's record.

"Keeping Kids Safe" is the sample personal safety curriculum offered by TDHS. This curriculum takes a holistic approach to the safety of children. The curriculum is composed of the following units: Self Esteem, Family & Friends, Feelings, Problem Solving, Personal Safety (general) and Personal Safety (four to five (4-5) year olds), and Safety Around Me. All sessions begin with group time and are followed by supplemental activities that give children additional practice in understanding the concepts. The curriculum uses hand puppets to serve as a group motivator and to introduce the stories. Together staff and parents decide what terminology to use when referring to the genitals, either the correct anatomical terms or the general term "private body parts" as specified below.

Child care agencies, please provide an answer for the questions that follow.

1. Identify the personal safety curriculum used by your agency:

"Keeping Kids Safe" is the personal safety curriculum used by our child care agency.

Our agency uses another personal safety curriculum described below:

Method of Instruction: We will use the Keeping Kids Safe Curriculum approved by the state of Tennessee.

2. For all personal safety curriculum, please provide the sample anatomical terminology to be used:

Sample Terminology: We will use the anatomically correct words such as vagina and penis and anus.

The instructional materials used in the agency personal safety curriculum are available for review by the parents or legal guardians.

I/We acknowledge that we have been provided an opportunity to review the agency's personal safety curriculum, and have been notified of the sexual abuse/personal safety curriculum for our child/children.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Agency Representative

Date

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Some child care providers use the "Keeping Kids Safe" personal safety curriculum. The bottom portion of this form lists the web address where you can find this sample curriculum, provided by TDHS. Please take the bottom portion with you so that you can review the curriculum at your leisure.

http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/humanservices/attachments/keeping_kids_safe_content_updated_wdraft_cover.pdf