
It's time ... to talk about it! Talk Early, talk often. Hear our Voice!

It's time ... to write about it! Sample Letter to the Editor

Before writing a Letter to the Editor, check with the newspaper about submission guidelines and review editing and publishing policies. In most cases, newspapers will limit the length of letters and require contact information for verification.

Dear Editor,

If you follow the headlines, you know that child sexual abuse happens. It happens often and close to home. This reality can be overwhelming, but it's important to remember that child sexual abuse can be prevented when we all play our part. The national average is 1 in 4 women experience some kind of sexual assault in their life time. 1 out of 3 are Native American. 15% were children under the age of 12!!

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. April 17 is the first— ever National Native Sexual Assault Awareness Day... communities across the country are standing up for child sexual abuse prevention by proclaiming "It's time ... to talk about it. Hear our voices!" All communities have a role in child sexual abuse prevention, and this year's campaign encourages everyone in the community to support healthy childhood sexual development by talking early, talking often, and taking action.

By talking about healthy childhood sexual development, adults are able to support the children in their lives. When adults support age-appropriate behaviors, model healthy boundaries and speak up to other adults, they are an ally to prevention. It's also our job to respect children, model healthy behaviors and boundaries, and confront adults when they act in ways that are not appropriate.

There is often silence and discomfort when it comes to the discussion of sexual development. It's important to understand that this is a normal experience we all share. By opening up communication, sharing age-appropriate information with children, and educating one another — we are taking steps toward a safer community.

Choose to start the conversation about healthy childhood sexual development. Whether you are a parent, elder, educator or community member, it's time for you to start talking early and talking often. Incorporate prevention as a life way by including it into you cultural events and gatherings to help support an environment where children are safe.

It's time... to talk about it. Hear our voices!

Your name here,
Your City here



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IT'S TIME ... TO TALK ABOUT IT!
Talk early, talk often. Prevent sexual violence.