

Child Safety week :6-12 September 2009 - Now is an opportunity for parents and teachers to reinforce key messages to children about protective behaviours (feeling, acting and being safe). This is a prime time to address these issues at home. Key messages worth discussing with your children are:

*We all have the right to feel safe all the time
Nothing is so awful that you can't talk with someone about it*

likely to experience abuse from a person who is known to them (a relative, friend or family acquaintance).

Things you can do to help protect your child

Talk to your child keep the communication open at every age

Discuss with your children about their body their public and private parts and the proper names for these parts.

Teach them how to recognise if they are feeling unsafe (eg feeling tense in their body, sweating, stomach pains, feeling sick).

Give them a clearer understanding of what these words mean and how they feel.

Talk to your child about ways of being safe eg. going straight home after school, walk in a group, avoid isolated areas, communicate to the parent/ teacher/responsible adult, when they have uncomfortable feelings.

Develop a safety plan with your child and discuss the options.

This plan should include: people they can talk to at home or school about this; things