

Erin's Law

Middle School Lesson

Hardin Valley Middle School



State Standards

SS2 - Advocate for self in multiple settings using assertiveness skills

SS5 - Exercise personal safety skills, including refusal skills

SS10: Appropriately utilize social media to enhance learning, develop positive relationships, communicate, and engage in appropriate entertainment.

SK2 - Compare and contrast healthy vs. unhealthy behaviors

SK3 - Distinguish appropriate behaviors for a variety of settings and situations

What is Erin's Law?

- Erin's Law is named after author, speaker and activist, Erin Merryn
- Erin is a childhood sexual abuse survivor, who introduced an Illinois law that was named after her
- The law is designed to teach students techniques to recognize sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult



Let's Listen
To
Erin's Story



Definition of Abuse

- Intimidation or manipulation of another person
- Abusive relationships are about getting and keeping power and control
- Abuse can happen to all types of people



What is Sexual Abuse?

Sexual Abuse – Pressuring or forcing someone to watch or participate in sexual activities they do not want to do or making a person feel uncomfortable or unsafe

Examples:

- inappropriate comments or words
- not respecting personal boundaries -
- inappropriate touch
- not respecting when someone says “no”
- inappropriate acts on social media

- Our bodies/ Personal Boundaries
 - Comfortable & uncomfortable touch
 - You are in control of your body
 - No one has the right to touch you without your permission
 - Remember your “Internal Alarm”
 - “Trust your gut”
 - Know what to do in an emergency

Staying Safe

Staying Safe



- Good vs Bad Secrets
 - Examples?
- Grooming/Luring:
 - False promises, gifts or threats
 - Predators seek youth who:
 - Are Vulnerable
 - Seek attention by posting sexually provocative photos/videos online
 - Talk about sex with unknown people
 - Post comments about being neglected

1. Appear Familiar

- a. Common interest

2. Develop Trust

- a. Share personal info & appeal to vulnerabilities

3. Establish Secrecy

- a. Gain trust

4. Erode Boundaries

- a. Conversation turns sexual

5. Direct Intimidation

- a. Blackmail & threats

Grooming Process Method

Be Assertive!

- What does this mean?
- What are ways you can be assertive?

Ways To Stay Safe & Be Assertive



- Say “no”
- Leave the situation
- Find a safe/trusted adult
- It is okay to talk to an adult if a friend tells you they have been hurt or abused
- There is a difference between *reporting* and *gossiping/snitching*

Phone/Tablet/Chromebooks

- Apps
- Games
- Texting
- Social Media

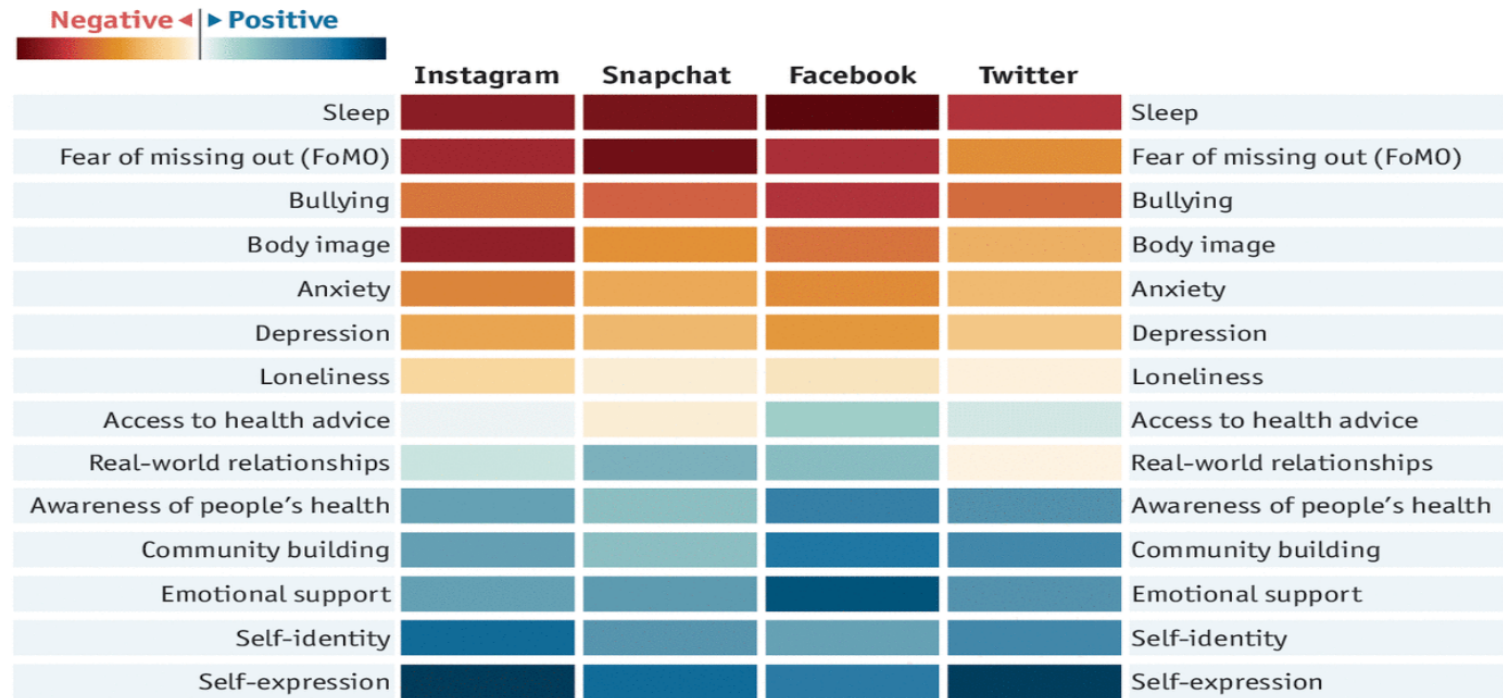
How are you keeping
yourself safe?

Screen Time Safety



Like, obsessed

Britain, social media users, 14- to 24-years-old, reported impact on well-being, 2017



Source: Royal Society for Public Health

Speak Up for Yourself!

Tell
Someone If....

- A relationship or situation feels unsafe
- You are being emotionally or physically threatened or harmed
- You have an uncomfortable feeling about a relationship or situation with a friend or adult
- You feel powerless in a relationship or situation
- You are feeling peer pressure
- A friend tells you they are unsafe or in danger

Things to Remember...



- No one deserves to be abused or threatened. *It is not the victim's fault.*
- You have a right to ask for help. Reporting abuse will not get you in trouble.
- Talk to an adult you trust
- You need to take care of yourself
- Sexual Abuse victims are both male and female

Scenario #1

You are at the park with a group of your friends, and someone you know well from church comes up to you and says, “I think you could be famous! You’re very good looking, almost like a model! Let me take some pictures of you – I’ll put them on my blog and maybe even on my Instagram account and all kinds of people will see. It’ll make you famous!”

Scenario #2

You're sleeping over at your best friend's house. You, your best friend, and their older sibling are all watching a movie together. You stayed up really late watching the movie, but your best friend fell asleep. Your friend's sibling puts on a different movie, but you don't like this one – it has naked people in it and it's making you really uncomfortable. Your friend's older sibling tells you not to tell anyone that you watched this movie together. They say that if you don't tell anyone they'll give you *some really cool thing – need examples*.

Scenario #3

You're on a soccer team with a bunch of your friends and you all are doing really well this season! You've been winning a lot of games, and you really like spending practices with your teammates and your coach. Your coach is someone you really look up to. They seem like a really cool person, and always have good advice to give. One day, your coach says – tell your parents you need to stay late after practice next time, and I'll give you a ride home. When you ask why, they won't give you a reason why you need to stay late

Scenario #4

Your friend tells you that there are some really bad things going on in their family, but they say that they're not allowed to tell anyone. Your friend makes you promise never to tell anyone, because if anyone finds out about what's going on, they're going to be in really big trouble, and that someone in their family might hurt them. You're really scared that your friend might not be safe, but you're also really scared that something bad will happen to them if you do anything.

- Trusted adult – parent, friend’s parent, police officer, religious member, sports coach

- School -social worker, school counselor, school nurse, teacher, coach, principal

•KEEP TALKING UNTIL SOMEONE HELPS!

TELL SOMEONE

Who Can Help?



What Happens Next?

1. You will be listened to, believed, supported, and cared for!
2. We will do everything we can to help keep you safe!
3. Law Enforcement/Child Protective Services will be contacted

Questions

If you have any questions or need to talk with someone, please ask!

