



March 31, 2021

Good afternoon RLA elementary families and happy last day of March!

Several years ago, the Fairfield Public Schools recognized the need to provide a program to empower children with the necessary skills to avert dangerous or abusive situations. The Talking About Touching program helps children recognize potential trouble, act assertively to rebuff it, and take necessary safety steps if it occurs.

Again this year, children in kindergarten through second grade will have lessons focused on saying NO, getting away, and telling a trusted adult. Mrs. Lori Mediate, the Health Coordinator for the Fairfield Public Schools, will be delivering these lessons at the kindergarten level. The information will be reviewed in grades 1 and 2 by the classroom teacher. The lessons are designed to empower children with skills and information needed for personal protection.

This is not a task for the schools alone. We must work together. Most children are tricked or manipulated – not forced – into sexually abusive activity. The following tips are provided for parents to work with children so that we can reinforce each other's teaching:

- Talk to your children every day and take time to really listen and observe.
- Learn as many details as you can about your children's attitudes and feelings.
- Encourage your children to share concerns or problems with you.
- Explain that each child's body belongs to that child alone and each child has the right to say NO to anyone who might try to touch inappropriately.
- Try not to scare your children, but emphasize it is not only strangers who might ask them to do something that makes them feel uncomfortable or scared.
- Develop your children's support systems. Help them identify people who could help them (parent/s, relatives, teachers, friends, clergyperson, or counselor).
- Review the "Touching Rule": no one touches the private parts of your body except to keep you healthy.

Remember, not giving children information leaves them vulnerable. Providing information in a sensitive and non-threatening manner permits them the rights they deserve.

Kindergarten parents: please let your RLA classroom teacher know if you do not want your child participating. Your child will be involved on the following dates:

Wednesday April 7th 9:30 AM **KR and KT** Meet Code: KRRLA Teacher Contact: Rosado
Wednesday April 7th 10:00 AM **KB and KM** Meet Code: KBRLA Teacher Contact: Bocchiere

Thursday April 8th 9:30 AM **KR and KT** Meet Code: KRRLA Teacher Contact: Rosado
Thursday April 8th 10:00 AM **KB and KM** Meet Code: KBRLA Teacher Contact: Bocchiere

Grade 5 parent/guardian: The grade 5 Family Life program will begin after April vacation. We will be contacting you, in the near future, with the exact dates. Please use the following link to preview the movie on puberty beforehand as a reference when having a follow-up discussion with your child.

URL: <https://app.fairfieldschools.org/puberty/> (THIS LINK WILL ONLY BE ACTIVE UNTIL APRIL 15th)

If you unable to preview the movie by 4/15 then you can access DVDs through the Fairfield Public Library. The movie titles are Meet the New you...for Girls and Meet the New You...for Boys. Please check the library website <https://fairfieldpubliclibrary.org> for information on their hours of operation.

Warm regards,
Steve DeAngelo, Principal

Steve DeAngelo

Principal
Remote Learning Academy
Fairfield Public Schools
(203) 650-2168

