

# Children's Center

*A place where healing begins*

## Advice From Child Molesters: What DOES NOT Work

1. Thinking that no one you know is an offender.
2. Depending on children to protect themselves.
3. Expecting that children will be able to tell someone.
4. Not having close relationships with your children.
5. Not having adequate rules about supervision.
6. Ignoring children's sexual acting-out behaviors.
7. "Stranger danger" does not work.
8. "No-Go-Tell" does not work.
9. "Good Touch, Bad Touch" does not work.

## Advice From Child Molesters: What DOES Work

1. Taking responsibility and educating yourself.
2. Maintaining control over who has access to your children.
3. Trusting your intuition and taking action if something doesn't seem right
4. Being alert and confronting offending behavior. Remembering that children's safety is more important than being polite.
5. Talking to your children and preparing them by having discussions about safety several times a year. Developing family plans for answering the phone/door, getting lost, fire safety, being exposed to drugs/alcohol, bullying, and "secret touching." Play "what if" games with your children about a variety of safety issues on a regular basis.
6. Teaching and maintaining healthy rules and boundaries.
7. Developing a close, supportive relationship with your children and providing an environment for your children to talk to you about problems.
8. Identifying three safe people besides yourself (including extended family, church, or school personnel) that your child can call or talk to - if, for any reason, they cannot talk to you.
9. Being open to the possibility of sexual abuse and reporting concerns. Failing to report may enable the offender to abuse another child. Few offenders stop offending without appropriate intervention.
10. Teaching sexually respectful/responsible attitudes and monitoring access to sexually explicit materials.

*Prepared by the Children's Center*

*www.childrenscenter.cc*

*For additional information contact Family Support at the Children's Center, 503-655-7725.*

*Source: Adapted from "Recognizing Child Molesters: A New Approach to Protecting Children, Parent and Community Workshop." Salem, OR. Author: Cory Jewell Jensen*