

Pointers For Parents

Keeping Children Safer

(NAPSA)—There are ways parents can better protect their children from those who seek to do them harm.

That news is significant, considering that researchers estimate one in five girls and one in 10 boys will be sexually victimized before reaching adulthood—and less than 35 percent of these assaults will be reported.

To help curb such alarming statistics, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) offers free publications to families concerned about safety. The group also launched a campaign that calls on everyone to take the problem of child sexual exploitation seriously.

“Child sex predators often seek volunteer or professional positions where they have legitimate access to kids. It’s critical parents and others pay careful attention to people who spend time with children,” says Ernie Allen, NCMEC president. Allen also gives these tips:

- Pay attention if your kids tell you that they don’t want to be with someone or go somewhere.
- Be sure your children are comfortable and feel safe enough to tell you any problems they may be having.
- Report incidents to the police.
- If your child has been victim-

THE SOUND A CHILD MAKES WHEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED IS OFTEN SILENCE.



No matter how well you think you know your children, you may never know what they're hiding inside. Children who have been sexually exploited are usually at a loss for words. And silence speaks to the fact that less than 35% of these victims report to the police. So keep a careful eye on your children. Make them feel comfortable and safe enough to tell you any problems that they may be having. To report child sexual exploitation, call the police. Then call us at 1-800-843-5678 or contact us at www.cybertipline.com. We work tirelessly with law enforcement to bring these child molesters to justice. Just as important, we give victims a voice. So an unrepeatable act never leaves a child speechless for life.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

1-800-THE-LOST
www.cybertipline.com

WE'RE HERE BECAUSE THEY'RE OUT THERE.

There are ways parents can help protect their children from sexual exploitation.

ized, NCMEC has resources to help.

• Visit NCMEC’s Web site to learn about Internet safety.

Parents and educators may visit www.cybertipline.com or call 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) to order free safety tips, access posters (online only), and learn more about all of NCMEC’s resources. Many publications are available in Spanish, and all are suitable for distribution at parenting organizations and community forums.