

ATTENTION PARENTS

A PROGRAM FOR ALL OF
HENDERSON COUNTY'S
NINTH GRADE STUDENTS



SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS:

SEXUAL ASSAULT

In this program, students will view a 25 minute video titled “I Never Thought It Was Rape” which helps identify what constitutes rape and sexual assault as well as informs students of the laws regarding sex crimes.

Students will also learn misconceptions and stereotypes regarding sexual assault as well as how to reduce their risk of being violated. Community resources will be made available and students will be informed of what to do if they become a victim of sexual assault.

Objectives

Students will:

- Understand the definition of sexual assault
- Learn common misconceptions and myths regarding assault
- Learn practical steps to reduce their risk of being assaulted
- Understand what to do if they are sexually assaulted and the community resources available for victims
- Learn the N.C. sex crimes statutes

Thank you for helping us keep Henderson County's children safe!

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On _____, The Healing Place will be coming to your child's ninth grade class to present an interactive program called "Sexual Abuse Awareness: Sexual Assault". You are welcome to view the program with your teen so that you may be prepared to answer his/her questions on this important subject. Please refer to the front page for specific lesson objectives for ninth grade and the enclosed brochures for information about child sexual abuse and assault. You are encouraged to share these with your teen and discuss the upcoming presentation.

In order for children to be protected, adults must become educated about child sexual abuse. All of us must be willing to know and understand that:

- Child sexual abuse is a reality and affects 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys.
- Abusers are often someone children and adolescents know and trust.
- Sexual abuse is a significant problem both for the child and their family.
- It is never the fault of the child or adolescent. Offenders are responsible, and we must hold them accountable for their criminal behavior.
- Children and teens are unlikely to report child abuse, even to their parents.
- Your support and protection will affect the well being of your child.

This is a challenging topic, but one that must be addressed so that we may truly be advocates for our children.

Sincerely,

Angie Alley
The Healing Place
aalley@thehealingplace.info

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD REPORTS ABUSE TO YOU

- Listen carefully and do not express panic or shock.
- Reassure the child that they did the right thing by telling.
- Tell the child you believe them and that the abuse was not their fault.
- Tell the child that you will do your best to protect them.
- Determine the child's need for immediate safety.
- As an adult, you are required by law to report any suspicion of abuse to one of the following:

Department of Social Services : 828-697-5500
Henderson County Sheriff's Department : 828-697-4911
Hendersonville Police Department: 828-697-3025
The Healing Place: 828-692-3931 (24 hour crisis) or 828-692-0495 (office)