

Is Your Family at Risk For Child Sexual Abuse?

By Bright Tomorrows Staff

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We all want our families to be safe and we want a guarantee that our children will not be sexually abused. While there are no guarantees in life there are ways that you can greatly reduce the risk of abuse. Here is a list of family situations that have been found to increase the risk and possibility of child sexual abuse and recommendations on what you can do:

- Living in a neighborhood with a number of registered sex offenders (adult or juvenile). Parents can educate themselves on who lives in their neighborhood by going to the sexual offender registry located on the Idaho State Police website at www.isp.idaho.gov/sor_id/. By knowing who lives in your neighborhood, you can help better protect your children. Keep in mind that not all sexual offenders are required to be on the registry or have not yet been exposed.
- Parents who watch or have sexually explicit material or tolerate pornography in the home put their children at risk. Children are vulnerable to sexual material and will often have a difficult time making sense of what they are seeing. Be mindful of where your children are when you watch sexually explicit material. Think back to when you were a child, did you know where your parents “hid” the Christmas presents? Your kids probably also know where your “hiding” place is for pornographic material.
- Single parent households are often the target of child sexual offenders. Many times the offender will befriend the single parent as a way of gaining access to the children. Single parents should think about the possible motives of a new friend and check the offender registry listed above.
- Families who do not talk about sexual abuse and body safety with their children leave children unprotected from child sexual abuse. Talking openly with your children about body parts, personal body safety, and child sexual abuse not only provide good education to their children but also help protect kids in how to respond if sexual abuse occurs or if they are being “groomed” for abuse.

For more information on family situations that put children at risk for sexual abuse, go to <http://www.articlesbase.com/parenting-articles/15-family-situations-that-put-children-at-high-risk-for-sexual-abuse-1433640.html>