



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FT BRAGG
2175 REILLY ROAD, STOP A
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28310-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

March 13, 2012

Office of the Garrison Commander

Dear Sponsor:

The Criminal Investigation Command (CID) and FBI are investigating alleged incidents of inappropriate touching by a substitute teacher in the Fort Bragg school system. The teacher, who was properly vetted before employment, substituted at McNair Elementary for 7 days over the last two school years. Immediately upon notification of the initial allegation, school officials stopped calling this teacher to substitute. The substitute teacher has not been employed within the Fort Bragg system since the initial report and is currently barred from the installation.

Health care professionals and experts have provided the enclosed checklists of most often exhibited symptoms of child abuse. Fort Bragg schools will also conduct annual safe touch education later this spring. As such, this may be a good time for you to discuss the subject with your children. Enclosed is a primer on talking with your children about safe touch (Encl 1).

In the event you observe any of the described symptoms in your children or they have reported any inappropriate touching or other behaviors, please contact the Fort Bragg Help Line 24/7 at 910-907-6680. Using this number, trained staff at Womack Army Medical Center's Department of Social Work will evaluate the situation and schedule your child for any necessary medical exams or interviews with specialists, rather than with routine or emergency providers (Encl 2).

If you have concerns, please allow our trained professionals to interview/examine your child. Questioning by a non-professional may block a child's ability to recall events, color their recollection, and make it difficult to reach a true determination of what actually happened.

Fort Bragg will host a town hall meeting for McNair Elementary parents on Friday, March 16, 2012, 4:00 pm, Main Post Theater, to address any questions you might have. We are committed to providing any necessary treatment, care, and counseling for all students and parents. We will also continue to work with law enforcement authorities to support any further actions, if warranted.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen J. Sicinski".

Stephen J. Sicinski
Colonel, US Army
Garrison Commander

2 Encls

Talking with your child about "Good Touch vs. Bad Touch"

It is a good idea to have a safe touch talk with your child if they go to school, daycare, to camp, or ever spend time alone with other adults or children.

To start such a talk, choose a quiet place and time with no distractions. Use a general opening that doesn't make the child anxious or make them feel like they have done something wrong. For instance try these starters:

'It's time to have a talk about good touch and bad touch because camp is coming up', or 'because it is swimsuit season and kids will be wearing less clothing, we should talk about this', or 'because I read an article in the paper, I want to have a talk with you about this.' Or:

'It's important that we talk about this every once in a while, because it's a way that I can make sure you're safe and I can teach you ways to stay safe.'

A safe touch talk only needs these three simple parts:

- What is ok and what is not ok when touching others
- Teach some safe touch rules
- Be ready to answer questions

What is a Good Touch? It is a touch that family and close friends give to show friendship and affection. Some examples are:

- A handshake, a pat on the back
- A hug when you feel close to someone
- Sitting close to your parent or brother/sister
- A good night kiss from Mom or Dad
- An examination a doctor has to make when you are hurt or for your health

What is a Bad Touch It is a touch given that hurts you or makes you feel uncomfortable, is given by someone not close to you, or is in a private place. Some examples are:

- Touches to private parts, or areas close to private parts
- Touches or physical actions that hurt, including being hit
- When someone tries to make you touch them in a way you don't like
- Touches that make you feel, afraid, or uncomfortable.
- Being asked to show your private parts or to look at someone else's

Some Safe Touch Rules for your child

Rule No. 1

-It is NEVER all right for someone to TOUCH, LOOK or TALK about one's private body parts except to keep them clean and healthy.

-It is never all right for someone older or bigger to ask the child to TOUCH, LOOK or TALK about his or her private body parts.

Rule No. 2

-If someone tries to break this rule, say "NO!" and RUN AWAY.

Rule No. 3

-TELL someone you trust and KEEP TELLING until you get the help you need.

Have this talk more than once, as your child grows older.

What to do if you suspect your child has been touched the wrong way?

Ask open-ended questions: "Has anyone at school or camp or church ever touched you in a bad way, or made you do anything you didn't like?" "Tell me about that"

Be calm and emphasize your acceptance: "You can always tell me if something like that happens. I won't be mad at you."

Reassure your child that if someone touches them inappropriately, it is never their fault; they are not to blame. Say you appreciate being told.

Call law enforcement or a professional instead of asking probing questions or asking your child about something over and over again.

**Number to call if you need help or have questions:
Department of Social Work: 907-6680**

Signs/Symptoms that a child may be a victim of child abuse:

- Repetitive, sexualized play, with other kids or with dolls or in pretend
- A change in interest in play from usual patterns
- Seeming more cut off or withdrawn from peers or adults
- Seeming more emotionally numb
- Nightmares that are recurrent
- Increased irritability, jumpiness, wariness, and being easily startled
- Increased anxiety and worry, particularly in response to people or places that may be associated with the traumatic exposure
- Efforts to avoid specific places, people or events that are not explicable
- Changes in personality that seem linked in time to a potential event
- Sleep disturbances
- Eating disturbances
- Age-inappropriate sexual knowledge
- Depression / describes self as "repulsive", "dirty" or "Bad"
- Engages in self-destructive behaviors
- Mood Swings
- Consistent unexplained stomach illnesses
- Writes, draws, plays or dreams of sexual / frightening images
- Suddenly has money, toys or gifts for no reason
- Resists removing clothes for bath-time / bed-time
- Won't share a "secret" shared with older child or adult

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