



**MBES**

# Counselor's Corner

## *April is Child Abuse Prevention Month*

This year, Fulton County has adopted a curriculum to implement in all elementary schools called Think First, Stay Safe. We will be teaching students how to stay safe and not fall for lures that people might use to get them into a dangerous situation.

### ***What can you do to keep your child safe from abuse?***

- **Strengthen your family's protective factors, the things your family relies on when life gets difficult. Protective factors can include nurturing each other, having an understanding of parenting skills and child development, and making social connections when you need help.**
- **Get to know people in your child's life: teachers, friends, friends' parents, coaches.**
- **Watch for "grooming" behaviors in older children or adults who spend time with your child: finding ways to be alone with your child, ignoring need for privacy, gift giving, etc.**
- **Empower your child to make decisions about their body by allowing age-appropriate privacy and listening when they say "no" to a hug, tickling, or to sit in your lap.**



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- **Teach your child the accurate names of private body parts and the difference between touches that are okay and not okay.**
- **Teach your child to trust their “gut” instincts. If they have an uneasy or yucky feeling about being around a certain person, even a family member, listen to them!**
- **Monitor your child’s use of technology, including game chats, cell phones, social networking site, etc. Your child needs you to set limits.**
- **Listen, listen, listen. Let your child know they can come to you about anything.**

**(Adapted from [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov))**