

DENVER SAFE FROM THE START & ERIN'S LAW



Denver Safe from the Start meets the requirements for **Erin's Law**, which mandates that public schools in each state must implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program.

Background:

Erin Merryn is a survivor of rape by a family friend from ages 6-8 and incest by a cousin from ages 11-13. Erin first began advocating for child abuse prevention legislation after she published her first book, *Stolen Innocence: Triumphant Over a Childhood Broken by Abuse: A Memoir*.

Most parents and school officials are not taught how to support child victims of sexual abuse when such difficult situations arise or are suspected.

Erin's Law Components:

This law requires the School Safety Resource Center to collect, house and have available educational programs for students, parents and teachers on preventing, recognizing and reporting child sexual abuse.

Age-appropriate materials for children, K-12, will include techniques to recognize personal body safety and learning to feel safe telling adults when they have had those boundaries crossed.

It is estimated that 1 in 10 children will tell someone about their abuse.



90%
of the time

Children are abused by someone they know, trust and love

Denver Safe from the Start teaches children skills that will help keep them safe from dangerous or abusive situations. Children also learn to ask for help when they need it.

- **Personal Safety:** Our program teaches children the rules that will help keep them safe from potentially dangerous situations.
- **Touching Safety:** Our program focuses on teaching children to identify unsafe touches and to say, "NO", get away and tell a grown-up if someone tries to touch their private body parts.
- **Assertiveness & Support:** Our program gives children a chance to practice getting out of unsafe situations and to ask a grown-up for help if they need it.



Colorado Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline

1-844-264-5437

Available 24 hours a day, every day.