



The Accelerated Schools

Accelerated Charter Elementary School (ACES)

The Accelerated School (TAS)

Wallis Annenberg High School (WAHS)

Keeping Children Safe

Since you can't always be with your kids, it's important to teach them how to find help and keep themselves safe. Most importantly, you need to do this in a way that doesn't scare yourself or your children. Instead, you want to build your children's self-confidence. Your kids will feel safer when they can confidently recognize dangerous situations and respond immediately.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a complex problem that requires a multifaceted, collaborative response. With their close connection to vulnerable children who are at high risk for exploitation or who may already be victims, child welfare agencies can be central partners in this effort. Child welfare agency leadership should be aware of the unique circumstances faced by victims of trafficking and ensure their agencies are fully prepared to serve this population. This may include incorporating protocols for working with victims of trafficking, including a screening process, into agency policy and ensuring staff receive training about the risk and signs of trafficking as well as the availability of services and supports in the community that are well-informed about the needs of trafficking victims. Agencies also can participate in data-collection efforts regarding the incidence of human trafficking in their communities and the needs of victims. This can help child welfare and partner agencies determine the scope of trafficking in their areas and develop strategies to prevent and address it.

Human trafficking is the practice of using force, fraud, or coercion to exploit people through labor and commercial sex. You can help your child and other children in your community help feel empowered to protect themselves from exploitation and know that they can come to you with their concerns, vulnerabilities, and experiences. Victims of trafficking and exploitation are not a number. They are not a statistic. They are individuals—young girls and boys, as well as adults of all social and economic backgrounds. It's possible you may have come across a child at risk of exploitation at some point in your life and not know it. In the most unfortunate of circumstances, the victim may be your own child. The resources here include information to help you understand the reality of human trafficking and exploitation, and most importantly, what you can do as a parent/caregiver to safeguard your children and others in your community.



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TAKE ACTION TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE

1. TALK WITH YOUR CHILD

Would you feel comfortable talking to your youth or one of their friends if they opened up to you about something sensitive? It's not always easy to maintain a safe space, but your youth needs to know there is an open invitation to talk about **anything** they're experiencing without fear of judgement. Our in-depth guide for parents and caregivers will help you to understand risks and vulnerabilities, have those conversations, and ask the right questions, covering topics like:

- **Knowing “dos and don’ts” in talking to a child about potential threats:** Our guide provides a few “Dos and Don’ts” when talking to a child you suspect is vulnerable or has been/is being sexually exploited.
- **Developing safety plans together:** Make a list of trusted peers and adults that your child can talk to in an uncomfortable situation.
- **Seeing vulnerabilities specific to your youth and neighborhood:** Those who traffic and exploit children are master manipulators. The definition of exploitation is to take advantage of vulnerabilities, so it's important to ask the question: what makes your child vulnerable?

2. KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE

For many youth, the internet is a positive and powerful space for socializing, learning, and engaging in public life. The Internet isn't a scary place, but there's no denying that it presents unique opportunities for harm. Minors face risk online, just as they do in other spaces in which people congregate: chatrooms and social networking sites are being used to recruit victims. These questions can help you determine a standard for your home: Where will internet-enabled devices (computers, laptops, tablets, gaming consoles, electronic books) be located? What times throughout the day is the Internet allowed? What types of websites are people allowed to access both in and outside of the home? How is social media (e.g., Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Omegle) used?

3. KNOW THE RED FLAGS

Grooming for trafficking and exploitation can be masked in everyday conversations and latch onto an individual's normal needs and desires. Signs to look for include the following:

- The sudden presence of an older boyfriend/girlfriend
- The sudden addition of a lot of new stuff or the appearance that a lot of money has been spent on them (e.g., new clothes, new hair styles, manicures/pedicures)
- Being secretive about who they are talking to or meeting

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The Accelerated School • 4000 S. Main Street • Los Angeles, CA 90037 • Office (323) 235-6343 • Fax (323) 235-6346
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- Becoming more and more isolated from their regular friends (the groomer often does this to have as much control as possible over the child)
- Unexplained changes in behavior, temperament, or personality (e.g., chaotic, aggressive, sexual, mood swings)

RESOURCES

- Human Trafficking (Child Welfare Information Gateway) – <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/trafficking/>
- Federal Government Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking (OTIP) <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/federalgovernment-efforts-to-combat-human-trafficking>
- Polaris <https://polarisproject.org/>
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children <http://www.missingkids.com>
- Human Trafficking Awareness Month (National Child Traumatic Stress Network) <http://www.nctsn.org/resources/public-awareness/human-trafficking>
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents: Services for Victims (California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare) <http://www.cebc4cw.org/topic/commercial-sexualexploitation-of-children-and-adolescents-services-forvictims/>