Session 7.7

Sexual Offenses

Session Overview:

1. Review Session 7.6.
2. Discuss sexual harassment and sexual assault.
3. Answer participant questions related to curriculum topics.
4. Wrap up session
5. Distribute Parent Connection Form Session 7.7: Sexual Offenses.

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will understand the definitions of sexual harassment and sexual assault.
- Participants will learn prevention tactics and the importance of disclosing harassment or assault to a trusted adult.
- Participants will understand that sexual abuse, harassment, or assault is never the victim's fault.

Materials Needed:

- Computer, projector, and speakers
- Jar of Now and Later Candy
- Sexual Offenses PowerPoint (7.7.2)
- Handouts:
  - Parent Connection Form Session 7.7: Sexual Offenses
- Question cards
- Question bag

Classroom Planning:

- Review Session 7.7 curriculum.
- Make copies of handouts.
- Gather question cards and the question bag.

The Standards:

- See Appendix E for a list of state and national standards met in this session.

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Educator states:
During the last session we talked about the sexual activity and STIs. Can anyone remember the three types of STIs we discussed?

[Viral, bacterial and parasitic.]

We also talked about the importance of using a condom to reduce the risk of STIs and pregnancy if you do choose to be sexually active and getting tested for STIs if you have been sexually active in the past (even one time). Does anyone remember the only 100% effective way to prevent pregnancy and STIs and emotional heartache?

[Abstinence.]

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Educator states:
Giving a compliment to someone about how they look is sometimes appropriate, but if that person has asked you to stop and you continue giving them that compliment, what does it become? [Sexual harassment.] Sexual harassment is serious stuff. You need to be aware of it because you may be doing something you don't realize is inappropriate. Or someone might be doing something to you. Harassment creates a hostile and uncomfortable environment where no one wants to be. It can be really hard to focus in school too, if it happens in school.

By talking about sexual offenses and learning more about them, we can hopefully help prevent these things from happening.

Educator highlight: Remember that sexual assault is a very sensitive subject. There may be participants in your class or people that participants know that have been assaulted. Before you begin the PowerPoint, be sure to remind participants that they need to be respectful and take this subject seriously.

[Show the Sexual Offenses PowerPoint.]

PPT Slides: Sexual Offenses

[Slide 1]

[Slide 2]

Educator states:
Sexual harassment is deliberate. Meaning, the person doing the harassing does it on purpose. It is often repeated sexual behavior that is unwelcome to the victim. Sexual harassment creates a hostile, offensive, or degrading environment. The victim doesn't want to be there or tries to avoid it if he/she can.

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[Slide 3]

If someone is being harassed, whether at work or at school, it may make the person not want to be there anymore at all. If they have to be there, they may find it difficult to focus, or they may have to avoid certain classes or places where they know the harasser may be.

[Slide 4]

Many people think that only females are victims of sexual harassment. This is not true. Males can also be victims of sexual harassment.

[Slide 5]

Sexual harassment can be verbal, nonverbal, or physical. Comments about or staring at body parts. When someone is just staring at you, that's creepy and makes you feel uncomfortable. Isn't it true? Touching, pinching, or grabbing. You may have seen guys, after a football game, say "Good game!" and smack each other on the backside? In this scenario, it may not be harassment. But if

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Educator states:
you're going around the gym and hallway smacking people on the backside, that is definitely sexual harassment. There's a difference between sportsmanship and making someone feel uncomfortable (such as sexual gestures or drawings). The person doing the harassing and the victim do not have to agree that harassment is occurring. For example, this person doing the inappropriate hand gestures may say that he/she was only joking; but if the victim feels uncomfortable, embarrassed, or threatened, then it may be a case of harassment. Repeatedly asking someone out when they say they aren't interested: If you keep asking someone out after that say "no," that's not persistent anymore, that's just harassment.

[Slide 6]

Here are more examples of harassment.

[Slide 7]

That harassment can occur via computers and cell phones and other modern technology. It doesn't just have to be in person. Sexual offenses can happen online as well and it is just as harmful. Here are some tips you can follow to protect yourself online: (1) set your profile to private; (2) understand that whatever you post online you are sharing with the world because www stands for world wide web. Be careful what you post – people might take it out of context. For example, colleges and jobs are looking into what you have on your social network (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, etc.) and depending on what you have on your page might or might not accept you.

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Educator states:
Remember we talked about the different levels of friendship? What were they? [Acquaintance, friend, and best friend.] Which means that your relationships with them will differ. There are some that are your acquaintances – again those who you normally don't hang out with but just see them around, such as a classmate. There those who are your friends. These are the people you would hang with if you see them somewhere but most likely you wouldn't share your most personal stories with. Then there are those who you consider your best friends. Your best friends would be someone you know a lot about and they know a lot about you. These are the people that you would share personal things with. Would you go around telling everyone everything about you? No! So be careful about who you have as a friend online and also be careful about what you post.

[Slide 8]

This is a great example of what harassment looks like. This girl is cornering this guy and tries to touch him all the time. This boy has tried telling her to stop several times, so at this point, it would be a good idea to talk to a trusted adult, right? If you don't tell someone, how can they help make the harasser stop?

[Slide 9]

Educator states:
Tell the harasser that the behavior is unwanted. Sometimes the harasser doesn't know that what they're doing is making you feel uncomfortable. You have to let them know. You can say, "What you're doing is making me feel uncomfortable. I don't appreciate that kind of behavior. Please respect me." Don't ignore it!

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Educator states:
Maybe you think they will just stop or it'll go away. If you ignore it, odds are it will continue or it could even get worse. Talk to a trusted adult such as the school nurse or counselor. -If this person keeps disrespecting you, you have to tell an adult. Keep a diary of events involving harassment Sometimes you might have to take the harasser to court. If they're harassing you pretty bad you can keep a diary of when it happened and what they were doing and that can be used as evidence.

[Slide 10]

Sexual harassment can sometimes lead to sexual assault, the worst form of which is rape. This is a very serious subject so I want you all to be respectful and please pay attention. Sexual assault is any sexual act in which a person is threatened, coerced, or forced to engage against their will. Another way of saying this is non-consensual sexual touching (such as groping). The worst form of sexual assault is rape (forced sex).

[Slide 11]

[Slide 12]

Forcing sex on someone else is a serious crime no matter what their age. It is ALWAYS wrong to force sexual activity upon someone.

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[Slide 13]

Educator states:
Let's talk about a particular type of sexual assault called date rape. Here is how date rape might unfold: Two people on the date might kiss, hug, or touch each other in sexual ways. Rape occurs when one of the two people wants to stop the sexual activity, and the other person refuses to stop. Sexual intercourse is then forced on the person who wants to stop. Just like with childhood sexual abuse, most sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows.

[Slide 14]

These are the reasons why most sexual assaults are not reported:

- Fear – The victim might be afraid that the person who sexually assaulted them will hurt them.
- Guilt – The victim may feel that it's their fault they were assaulted. It is vital that you know that it is never the victim's fault.
- Lack of knowledge – Maybe the victim doesn't know their legal rights or that they can get help if they are sexually assaulted.
- The victim knows the abuser – The abuser could be a family member, a close friend of the family, or just an acquaintance

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[Slide 15]

[Slide 16]

Educator states:
These are some things that victims of sexual assault have said. It shows their thoughts and feelings about the assault:

- It's my fault. – Victims are <u>not</u> at fault, the perpetrator is at fault. You can only control your behavior. We can't control somebody else's behavior.
- I had sex with them before. – It doesn't matter if you've been sexually active with them in the past. If one person says no, and the other forces sex it is rape.
- We've been dating long enough. – It doesn't matter how long you've been going out. Even if you've been going out for 10 years, if they force sex on you, or you force sex on them, it's rape.
- They spent a lot of money on me.– I don't care if they spent a billion dollars on you. If they force sex, it's rape. And I don't care if you spent a billion dollars. If you force sex, it's rape.
- Not one of these statements is a valid excuse for someone to force sex on someone else. No matter what a victim might think or feel, it is never their fault.
- No one has the right to expect sex. You need to realize that no one owes you sex for any reason. And you never "owe" anyone sex for <u>any reason</u>, and you always have the right to say "No" to any form of sexual activity at any time and any place! Forced sex is against the law – ALWAYS!

[Slide 17]

Don't blame yourself if you are sexually assaulted. It is never your fault if you are sexually assaulted. No one has the right to force you to have sex or to touch you sexually, not even your boyfriend or girlfriend!

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Educator states:
And you do not have the right to force sex or to touch sexually, not even your boyfriend or girlfriend.

Get help—tell a trusted adult and REPORT the assault. -If you were assaulted, you need to tell someone about it. Even if you think you might have been assaulted, you need to tell someone you trust about the incident. Also, you need to report the assault because most likely the abuser is abusing more than one person. You want to protect yourself and protect others by reporting it.

Be believed- If you are sexually assaulted, we recommend that you tell your parent/guardian first. If that isn't possible, tell your teacher, your counselor, your principal…But you need to be believed if you tell someone your story. So if the first person you tell doesn't seem to believe you, tell another person. If the second person doesn't believe you either, tell another person. Keep telling until you are believed.

[Slide 18]

Here are some things you can do to protect yourself:

- Avoid parties where there are drugs and alcohol.
- Avoid dating much older partners.
- Avoid being alone where no one can help if needed- Remember on the first day when we talked about hanging out in groups instead of being alone. This could be a reason why that is important. Dating in groups is a safer way to date than going out alone with someone. If you are alone, no one can hear you cry for help if you are being assaulted.
- Don't leave a party/crowd with someone you don't know well.

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[Answer all question cards from Sessions 7.1-7.6 as well as any other questions.]

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[Remind participants of the question cards and to place them in the question bag. Pass out Parent Connection Form Session 7.7: Sexual Offenses and collect the previous day Parent Connection Forms.]

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