

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Abby Hinz, RN, BSN  
Public Health Nurse  
715-839-4718  
[abby.hinz@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:abby.hinz@co.eau-claire.wi.us)

**Teaching kids to ask for consent**

**EAU CLAIRE, Wis. April 23, 2019**– Sexual violence happens everywhere in the U.S., including Eau Claire. It’s estimated that an American is sexually assaulted every 97.8 seconds (<https://www.sane-sart.com/rape-clock/>). In Eau Claire, the Family Support Center provided services to over 200 people affected by sexual violence in 2017.

Sexual violence is a sexual act committed against someone without that person’s freely given consent. Freely given consent is a choice made without pressure, manipulation, or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Sexual violence can happen to anyone.



**Here’s one way you can help prevent sexual violence. Talk with kids about consent at every age.**

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| <b>Elementary age</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Explain that they have the right to decide whether and how they are touched.</b> You don’t have to kiss or hug anyone you don’t want to.</li> <li>• <b>Teach kids to ask “Is it okay if…”</b> before they do something physical with a friend. Teach them to set healthy boundaries and accept no as an answer.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Middle School Age</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teach them it’s ok to say no.</b> If someone tries to make you do something you don’t want to do, you can say no and suggest something else.</li> <li>• <b>Let them know that consent can be given and taken away.</b> Consenting to something once with one person doesn’t mean they will always consent to the same thing. Consent can be reversed. Help them know the difference between a lack of response and an enthusiastic response.</li> <li>• <b>Help them understand their boundaries.</b> What things are important to them? What things aren’t comfortable for them? It’s never right for one person to pressure their partner in a relationship to do something they don’t want to do.</li> <li>• <b>Demonstrate how to show respect for others’ boundaries.</b> It isn’t okay to keep pressuring someone after they’ve said no.</li> </ul> |
| <b>High School Age</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consent is needed to know if having sex is OK with your partner.</b> If you’re drunk or high, it can be hard to read signals and communicate with someone to know if they are consenting. Make sure they know that no one has the right to violate someone else’s boundaries. (Doing so may be against the law.)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

“Young people learn from the world around them so beyond talking about consent adults really have to model these behaviors as well,” says Abby Hinz, Public Health Nurse.

For more information, check out the FREE [Consent is toolkit](#). It has many tools to start or deepen a conversation about consent. All resources were reviewed by a team of Wisconsin youth and experts.

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