

Extending Social Educators Competences/ ESEC Nr. 2018-1-PL01-KA204-051126

The project course

Preventing and responding to sexual abuse of disabled children

Interdisciplinary network for special &
intercultural education
Include

The aim of the lesson

This lesson aims to give the capacity for special educators increase awareness regarding the prevalence of sexual abuse of disabled children and young people, to alert them to the signs of sexual abuse, to educate them regarding the prevention and response to sexual abuse and to introduce a multilevel approach regarding the structural and policy supports they could advocate for

Allocated hours, total – 10

Independent study hours – 6

Skype hours - 4

Link: [Introduction](#)

Lesson summary

- Sexual abuse of disabled people is a huge problem. Disabled children and teens are three to four times more likely to be sexually abused than are those without disabilities. Some researchers estimate that the lifetime rate of abuse of adults with disabilities is as high as 90 percent.
- It is imperative to empower parents to prevent and intervene on behalf of their vulnerable children. Increased awareness of the prevalence of sexual abuse in this population, information regarding the signs of sexual abuse in disabled children and teens and strategies for prevention as well as response will be presented.

Outcomes of the lesson: “Preventing and responding to sexual abuse of disabled children”

Learners will approach the following concepts:

- Sexual abuse statistics in disabled children and teens
- Signs of sexual abuse
- Consequences of sexual abuse
- Responding to sexual abuse
- Preventing sexual abuse
- Necessary structural and policy changes

Link: Preventing and responding to sexual abuse of disabled children summary

Special educators will improve their skills and competence in 5 major topics

1st topic: Statistics regarding sexual abuse in disabled children and teens

Increase knowledge regarding the vulnerability and risk factors for abuse and the profile of the abusers

2nd topic: Signs of sexual abuse

Understand and be able to identify the physical, behavioral and psychological signs of sexual abuse in disabled children and teens

3rd topic: Develop a protocol of response in the event of suspicion of sexual abuse

4th topic: Familiarize with strategies for preventing sexual abuse at the level of family, school and care facilities

5th topic: Familiarize with strategies for preventing sexual abuse at the level of structural and policy changes

1st topic: Statistics regarding sexual abuse in disabled children and teens

- I. Statistics regarding abuse of disabled people
- II. Vulnerability of different types of disabilities
- III. Risk factors increasing vulnerability
- IV. Underreporting of abuse
- V. Who is most likely to sexually abuse

1st topic: Statistics regarding sexual abuse in disabled children and teens

Further resources

- Statistics

<https://strathprints.strath.ac.uk/27452/1/strathprints027452.pdf>

- Abuse of people with disabilities: a silent epidemic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhLsATwO0o4>

- Risk factors

https://westyorkscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_abuse_disabld.html

- Shocking allegations of abuse at special schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrhnxqVzmdU>



Link: [1. Sexual abuse risk factors for disabled children](#)

2nd topic: Signs of sexual abuse

- I. Physical signs
- II. Behavioral signs
- III. Psychological signs

2nd topic: Signs of sexual abuse

Further resources

- Recognizing and preventing abuse, neglect and exploitation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UU94N2yi294>
- The sexual assault epidemic no one talks about
<https://www.npr.org/2018/01/08/570224090/the-sexual-assault-epidemic-no-one-talks-about?t=1585734473543>



Link: 2. Signs of sexual abuse

3rd topic: Develop a protocol of response in the event of suspicion of sexual abuse

- I. How to talk to disabled victims of sexual abuse
- II. Reporting to authorities
- III. Support and treatment of victims of sexual abuse

3rd topic: Develop a protocol of response in the event of suspicion of sexual abuse

Further resources

Tip sheet: how to talk to your child to reduce vulnerability to sexual abuse

<https://www.stopitnow.org/ohc-content/tip-sheet-how-to-talk-to-your-child-to-reduce-vulnerability-to-sexual-abuse>



Link: [3. Responding to sexual abuse](#)

Exercise- The process of reporting sexual abuse in my country

Exercise- familiarize yourself with the process of reporting sexual abuse of a disabled person or young adult in your country. What authorities are informed, in what manner (e.g. phone call). What is the procedure followed with someone reports sexual abuse of a disabled child or young person. Prepare a list of agencies and contact information as well as a step by step description that is expected to be followed.

4th topic: Preventing sexual abuse at the level of family, school and care facilities

- I. Within the family/ with your child
- II. Staying safe outside the home
- III. With service providers

4th topic: Preventing sexual abuse at the level of family, school and care facilities

Further resources

How to talk to your child to reduce vulnerability to sexual abuse

<https://www.stopitnow.org/ohc-content/tip-sheet-how-to-talk-to-your-child-to-reduce-vulnerability-to-sexual-abuse>

Shocking allegations of abuse at special schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrhnxqVzmdU>

Recognizing and preventing sexual abuse

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/recognizing-and-preventing-sexual-abuse>



Link: 4. Preventing sexual abuse

5th topic: Preventing sexual abuse at the level of structural and policy changes

- I. Recommendations for schools and students
- II. Recommendations for disability service providers
- III. Recommendations for criminal justice professionals

5th topic: Preventing sexual abuse at the level of structural and policy changes

Further resources

Violence abuse and bullying affecting people with intellectual/developmental disabilities

https://thearc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/NCCJD-White-Paper-1-Violence-Abuse-Bullying_5.pdf

What should everyone know about abuse?

<https://thearc.org/everyone-know-abuse/>



Link: [5. Necessary structural and policy changes](#)

Final evaluation questions

- Why do disabled children have a higher risk for sexual abuse?
- What circumstances are more dangerous?
- What are the most prevalent signs of sexual abuse in disabled children?
- How can we prevent sexual abuse?
- If there is suspicion of sexual abuse what should be done?
- What societal and policy changes would be helpful?