Child Protection Training Modules for International School Communities

Introducing our Content Expert:
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Child Abuse Physician
Medical Director, Global Initiative for Child Health and Well-Being
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Dr. Jordan Greenbaum is a physician specializing in the field of child maltreatment, and the medical director of the Global Initiative for Child Health and Well-Being at the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC). She received her medical degree from Yale School of Medicine. She works with victims of suspected physical/sexual abuse, neglect and sex trafficking/exploitation at the Stephanie Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. At this Center, children receive forensic interviews regarding the suspected abuse, medical evaluations, mental health assessments and treatment. Dr. Greenbaum conducts research on child sex trafficking and provides training on all aspects of child maltreatment for medical and non-medical professionals working with children. She delivers training locally, nationally and internationally, working with child-serving professionals to prevent, identify and intervene in cases of suspected abuse and sex trafficking.

Sample 2 day in-school program with possible target audience:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching and non-teaching staff, coaches, tutors, volunteers, PTA leaders and after-school program staff</th>
<th>School counselors, child protection leads/designates, medical professionals</th>
<th>School leadership including designated child protection board member</th>
<th>Wider adult school community: parents, caregivers, and guardians</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Day 1:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Overview of Abuse:</strong> Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, neglect, witness to domestic violence</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
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<td><strong>Deep Dive: Role of First Responder</strong> including role play</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Creating a Trauma-Informed School: recovering from incident or crisis</strong> – 1-2 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Day 2:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Overview of Sexual exploitation</strong> including youth produced sexual imagery</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Creating a Local Support Network</strong></td>
<td>2-3 hours</td>
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<td><strong>Overview of Abuse, Disclosure and Victim Support</strong>, with Q&amp;A panel</td>
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Time can be built into schedule for confidential conversations with Dr. Greenbaum for staff with concerns to share.
**Educator Course Descriptions:**

The courses described below are self-contained. An organizer may choose one or more to create training sessions of varying length. If multiple courses are desired, the modules will be adjusted to eliminate overlap and potentially expand on issues of particular interest. ICMEC staff will meet with school organizers to determine specific needs and customize the training accordingly.

**Overview of Child Abuse and Neglect**

Major topics covered in this workshop include:

- Definitions and attributes of neglect and physical, sexual and emotional abuse
- Child sexual abuse: victims and offenders
  - Myths and realities of child sexual abuse
  - Risk factors for victimization, prevalence
  - Characteristics of offenders
  - Grooming techniques used by offenders
- Normal and abnormal sexualized behavior in children
- Interviewing skills for the first responder
  - Goals and limitations
  - Developmental considerations
  - Framing your questions
  - Responding to disclosure of abuse: reporting and referrals
- Outcomes and mental health treatment strategies
  - Adverse Childhood Experiences studies
  - Evidence-based mental health treatment options
- Working with community agencies and creating a network of support before and after an incident
  - Assessing victim needs and community service gaps
  - The multidisciplinary approach
  - Building relationships with investigative agencies and service providers
  - Collaborating with other international school professionals
  - Creating a local or regional network

Objectives: Participants will learn about the prevalence of child abuse, risk factors, possible indicators of victimization, and characteristics of offenders through case examples and photographs. Common myths about sexual abuse will be discussed. Participants will understand their role as first responders and practice interview techniques through role-play and group discussion.

Short- and long-term adverse consequences of child sexual abuse will be explained, and a brief overview of treatment strategies discussed (this section may be expanded for counselors). Participants will explore ways to identify victim services within their local community, and learn strategies to work with investigators, service providers and other international school colleagues to help protect vulnerable children.

**Length:** 1 day - can reduce time to meet host's needs or offer in conjunction with other modules.

**Target Audience:** Teaching and non-teaching staff, designated child protection leaders, school counselors and medical staff, school leadership including board members, volunteers, and parents.
The Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect: A Child’s Perspective

Major topics covered in this workshop include:
- Effects of child abuse and neglect from a child’s perspective
- Early brain development and toxic stress
- The trauma of intervention
- Trauma-informed care of the abused child

Objectives: Participants will view child abuse and neglect from the perspective of the child. The child’s reactions to experiences of violence, sexual molestation and exploitation, neglect, and abandonment will be considered in the context of their emotional response, their interpretations of the event, and the impact of the experience on their views of themselves, their caregiver and the world. Manifestations of traumatic stress will be described, and the underlying effects of toxic stress on brain development will be discussed. Strategies of effectively interacting with traumatized children will be examined.

Length: 2.5 hours
Target Audience: Teaching staff, counselors, child protection designates and parents

Overview of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth

Major topics covered in this workshop include:
- Overview of child sexual exploitation
  - Prevalence, risk factors, possible indicators, and interventions
  - Handling disclosure
- Health consequences of sexual exploitation
  - Adverse effects on physical and mental health
- Trauma-informed care (TIC) of suspected victims
  - Definition, relevance to trafficking victims
  - Components of TIC
  - Safety and trust
  - Interview techniques
- Local context: challenges and opportunities
  - Needs of victims and community advocacy
  - Identifying community partners who provide victim services
  - Working with authorities
- Prevention strategies
  - Helping children stay safe
- Secondary traumatic stress (STS)
  - Causes, effects, strategies to reduce STS

Objectives: Participants will learn about the various forms of child sexual exploitation, focusing on those most relevant to the local context. Risk factors and possible indicators of child exploitation will be reviewed, as will the spectrum of adverse physical and mental health consequences. Participants will learn appropriate strategies for interacting with suspected victims to minimize re-trauma and maximize safety. Common physical, social, emotional, and legal needs of victims will be discussed and participants will examine the local and national response to child sexual exploitation. Finally, participants will discuss support for victims and wider community.
Responding to Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (Sexting) and Sexual Exploitation Online

Major topics covered in this module include:
- Overview of definitions and special considerations
  - Prevalence, risk factors, possible indicators, and interventions
  - Avoiding criminalization of children
- Handling Incidents
  - Handling initial disclosure
  - Assessing risks – the principal of proportionality
  - Informing parents
  - Reporting to law enforcement or service providers
  - Needs of victims and community advocacy
  - Adverse effects on physical and mental health
- Educating Young People
  - What should we teach?
  - What resources are available?
  - Identifying community partners who provide victim services
  - Working with authorities

Objectives: Participants will understand various types of online risks and the implications of shared sexual imagery as safeguarding concerns. Participants will learn appropriate strategies for interacting with victims to minimize trauma and maximize safety. Understanding of procedures that protect the child victims and assessing harm will be strengthened. Guidelines for assessing risk and severity without viewing the images will increase confidence of staff when confronted with disclosure.

Length: 2 hour module - adjustable to suit host’s needs or in conjunction with other modules.
Target Audience: Teaching staff and volunteers working with children and youth, school leaders, counselors, and designated child protection leaders.

Talking to the Child Victim of Sexual Abuse: The Role of the First Responder

Major topics covered in this workshop include:
- Overview of child sexual abuse: victims and offenders
- The disclosure of abuse
  - Types of disclosure
  - Process of disclosure
  - Delays in disclosure
  - Recantation of a disclosure
  - False allegations of abuse
- Developmental considerations regarding disclosure
- First responder vs. forensic interviewer
● Goals of first responder interview
● Techniques for interviewing children
● Common errors in the interview

After a brief overview of child sexual abuse, this training will focus on the process of disclosing abuse and techniques to help the adult hearing the disclosure respond appropriately. The differences between the questions asked by a first responder and those asked by a trained forensic interviewer will be discussed. Common helpful techniques for talking with children will be described, and common errors reviewed.

Length: .5 day - adjustable to suit host’s needs or in conjunction with other modules.
Target Audience: All staff and volunteers working with children or youth, school leadership and designated child protection leaders.

Basics of Child Physical Abuse

Major topics covered in this workshop include:

● Definitions of child physical abuse including cultural considerations and variations in national laws
● Prevalence, risk factors
● Long-term adverse effects of physical abuse
● Forms of physical abuse (bruising, burns, broken bones, etc)
● Discipline vs. physical abuse
● Talking to children about suspected abuse
● Talking to parents about suspected abuse
● Prevention strategies for school staff
● Reporting obligations, safety resources and prevention strategies

Objectives: Through presentation of photographs, case examples and interactive exercises, participants will become familiar with the definition of physical abuse, and common cultural factors at play. They will be able to identify factors that may render children vulnerable to abuse, and recognize possible indicators of abuse. They will increase their understanding of differences between physical abuse and discipline involving corporal punishment, and learn skills that may be useful when talking to parents and other caregivers about cultural differences in discipline. Strategies for talking with children about suspected inflicted injury will be discussed and participants will engage in role play and large group discussions. We will review reporting practices, and discuss ways school staff can help keep children safe from abuse.

Length: .5 day module - can be shortened to 2 hours if limited role-play and group discussions.
Target Audience: Teaching and non-teaching staff, designated child protection leaders, school counselors and medical staff, school leadership including board members, volunteers and parents.
Creating a Trauma-Informed School: recovering from an incident or crisis

Major topics covered in this workshop include:

- Overview of childhood traumatic stress
  - Definitions
  - Adverse childhood experiences research
  - Impact of trauma on children and families
  - Common age-related manifestations of traumatic stress
  - Sexualized behavior
- Components of a trauma-informed system of care
  - Screens for trauma
  - Uses evidence-based tools and treatment modalities
  - Makes resources available
  - Strengthens resilience and protective factors
  - Values continuity of care and collaboration
  - Addresses secondary traumatic stress affecting staff
- Critical elements of trauma-informed system of care
  - Safety
  - Child/family needs
  - Well-being and resilience
  - Collaboration
- Challenges to creating a trauma-informed system of care
  - Common challenges and opportunities
  - Local challenges and opportunities
- Strategies for creating a trauma-informed system of care
  - Planning first and next steps
- Early brain development and the impact of trauma on children
  - Concepts of early brain development
  - Toxic stress and brain development
  - Fear-conditioning
  - Caregiver strategies to help the traumatized child
- Trauma screening and assessment
  - Definitions and differences
  - Post-traumatic stress disorder
  - Strategies for screening and assessment
  - Challenges
  - Tools for screening and assessment

In this workshop, participants will learn how childhood trauma can lead to psychological, social, behavioral, and physical problems immediately and later in life. The concept of child traumatic stress will be discussed, including its manifestations and impact on the child and family. The importance of a trauma-informed approach will be discussed and essential components of a trauma-informed system of care described.

Length: 1 day

Target Audience: Adults working with traumatized children, staff, volunteers and community members following an incident or crisis (natural disaster, security crisis or abuse disclosure).
Child Abuse and Neglect of Children with Disabilities or Special Needs

Major topics covered in this workshop include:

- Definitions of “disability”, “medically fragile child” and “child neglect”
- Child abuse and neglect, and the disabled child
  - Prevalence, risk factors for abuse/neglect
  - Traumatic stress and the disabled child
  - Possible indicators of abuse/neglect
  - Prevention strategies

In this workshop, participants will learn how and why children with disabilities are at increased risk for child abuse and neglect. They will understand how such maltreatment may lead to signs of traumatic stress, and learn to identify possible indicators of abuse/neglect. Finally, they will learn about ways adult caregivers and child-serving professionals can help minimize the risk of child abuse and neglect of the disabled child.

**Length: 1 hour** - or as an additional module with other training.

**Target Audience:** Caregivers of disabled children and other adults working with special needs children including teaching and non-teaching staff, aids, volunteers, and school counselors.