



National Child Abuse Prevention Program for School Community in Lithuania: experience and challenges.

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Program „Protect and Respect Me“ Pilot project 2014-2015

The Ministry of Education initiated the development of sexual abuse program, following the Lanzarote Convention, which came into action in 2013 in Lithuania.





Program “Protect and Respect Me”

Aims:

- To create sexual abuse prevention and intervention model for educational system in Lithuania.
- To raise school community sensitivity and competence considering child sexual abuse intervention and prevention.
- To facilitate interdisciplinary cooperation in the implementation of Program of Sexual Abuse Prevention at Schools



Target Group

- School community: students, all school staff (administration, teachers, professionals) and parents;
- Professionals from child protection, healthcare and law enforcement, pedagogic psychological centers;
- NGO-s working with children.

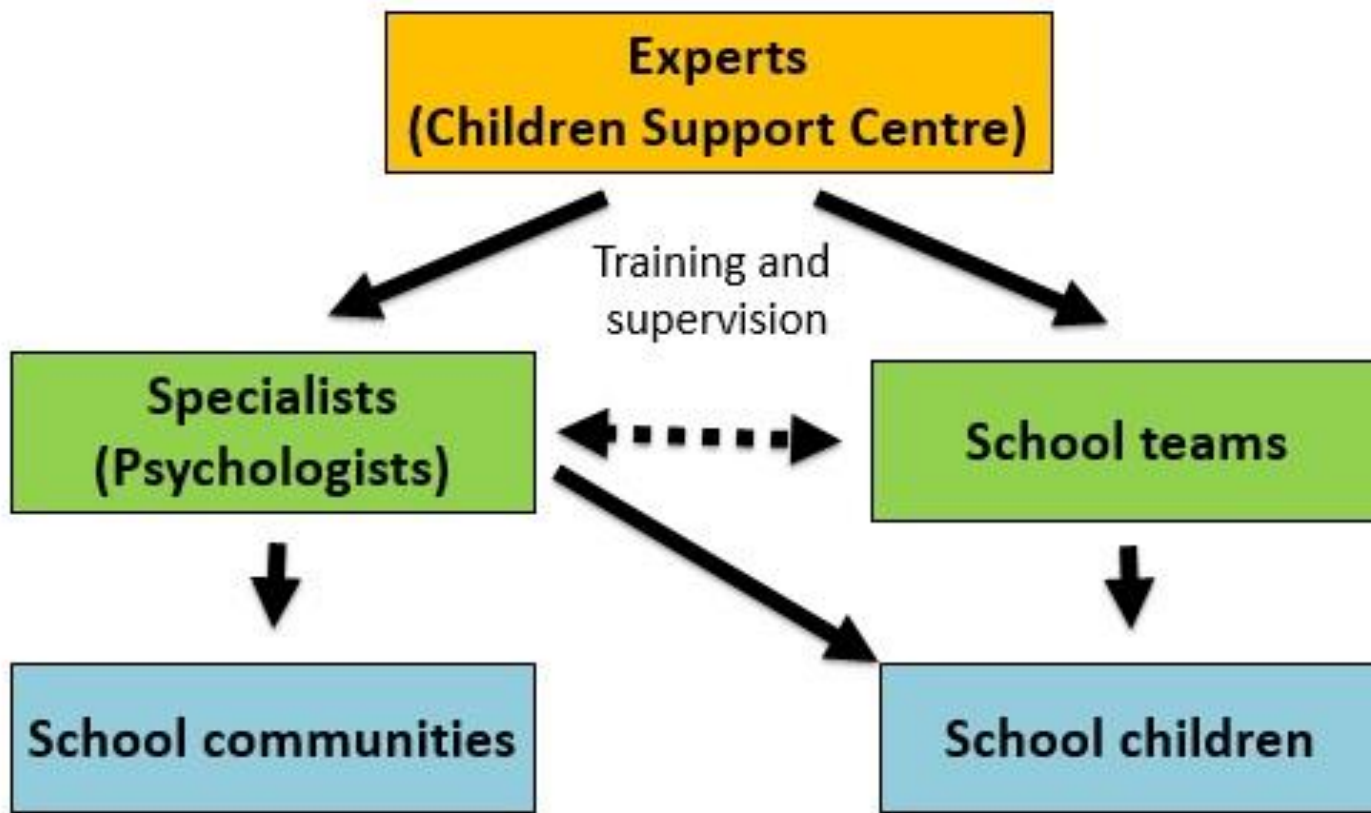


The model and activities of Program “Protect and Respect Me”

1. Project presentation to school management and community representatives.
2. Training for school and pedagogic psychological centers psychologists.
3. Training for school teams.
4. Training for school community (adults).
5. Safety trainings for school –age children.
6. Monitoring and counselling for school teams and psychologists.
7. Impact research.
8. Final conference of pilot project results and outcomes.



Program “Protect and Respect me” implementation





1. Project presentation to school management and community representatives

- To discuss problems and challenges around sexual abuse and prevention issues in the community.
- To present “Protect and Respect Me” model.



2. Training for psychologists from school and pedagogic psychological centers

- To train professionals to implement Program of Sexual Abuse Prevention at School – “Protect and Respect Me” at school:
 - To run Training for school community.
 - To run Safety trainings for school –age children.

- To train professionals to work with sexual abuse victims, their families, school communities and to facilitate multi-disciplinary approach.



3. Training for school teams

- To improve their competence in child maltreatment and particularly sexual abuse – definition, recognition and intervention;
- To teach how to run Safety trainings for school – age children according training manual.





4. Training for school adult community

Participants: all school staff, parents and professionals which are connected with children safety, health and other welfare issues.

Duration: 3 hours.

Main topics are:

- Child sexual development
- Child maltreatment
- Child sexual abuse
- Adult's responsibilities and actions



5. Safety trainings for school-age children

Manuals for age groups:

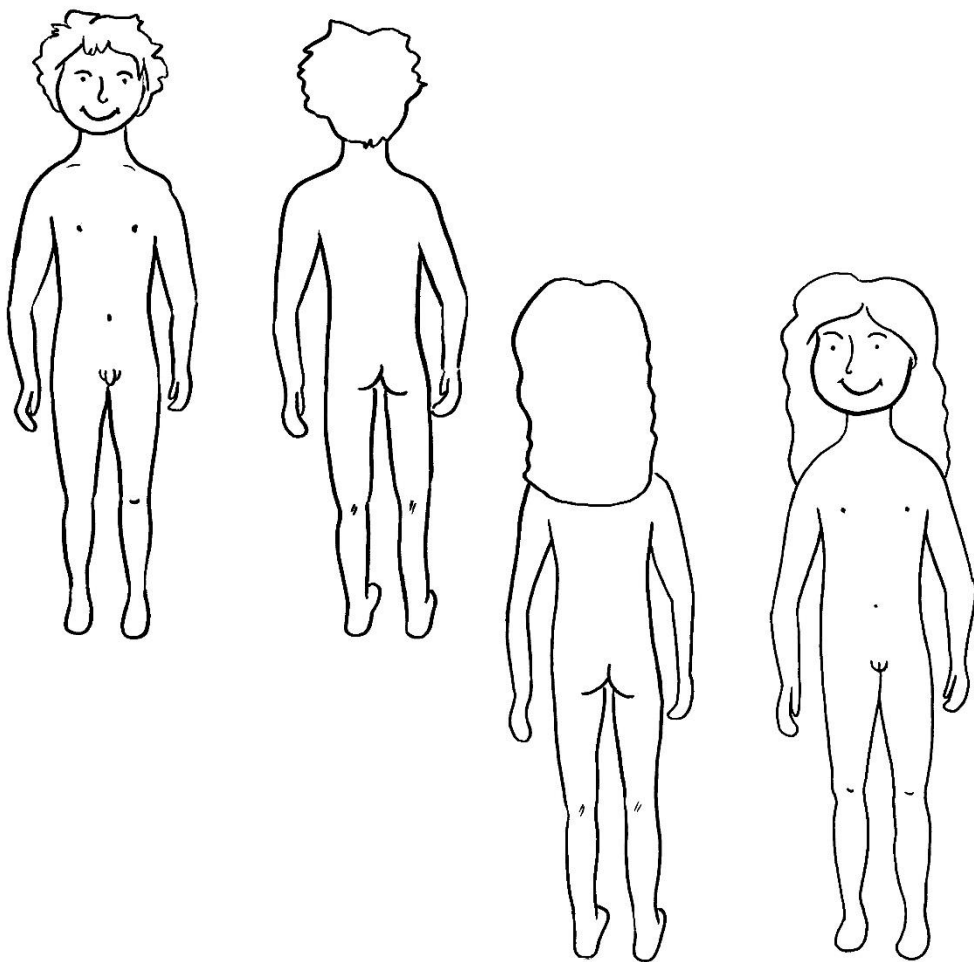
- 1-2 grade
- 3-5 grade
- 6-9 grade
- 10-12 grade

- 6 hours each





5. Safety trainings for school-age children



Main topics are:

- Better understanding of myself,
- Good and Bad secrets,
- Body boundaries,
- What to do if somebody violates body boundaries,
- Self esteem.



5. Safety trainings for school-age children

Methods:

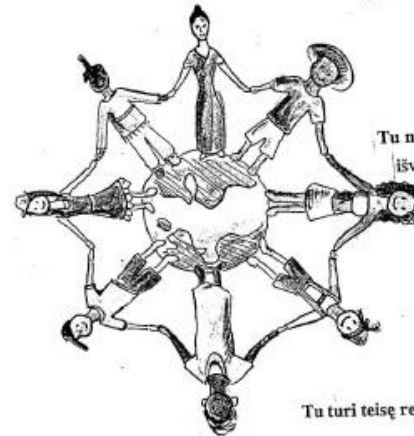
- Group discussion
- Individual and group exercises
- Presentations
- Role-play
- Reflection of experience
- Games

Tavo teisės

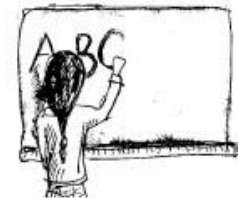
Kiekvienas vaikas turi teisę į vardą ir tautybę



Tu negali būti išskiriamas dėl savo
išvaizdos, odos spalvos, lyties, kalbos, religijos
įsitikinimų



Tu turi teisę reikšti savo nuomonę





6. Monitoring and counselling for school teams and psychologists

- School teams discuss and plan training for different age groups at school;
- School intervention planning in the case of suspected child abuse case.





Participants of the pilot project trainings.

	Region/Institution			School children				
		Trainers	Adults community	1-2 grade	3-5 grade	6-9 grade	10-12 grade	Total
1	Kalvarija. Sangrūda.	3	39	11	14	14	11	89
2	Kazlų Rūda.	3	41	-	12	10	10	73
3	Marijampolė. Petras Arminas school.	3	45	12	12	13	14	96
4	Šakiai district. Gelgaudiškis	3	61	10	11	9	-	91
5	Vilkaviškis Ažuolas school.	3	28	19	19	15	-	81
6	Marijampolė county psychologists	15	-	-	-	-	-	15
	Total:	30	160	52	68	47	35	392



7. Impact research.

Aim: to evaluate the knowledge and experience of the school communities concerning child sexual abuse problem and to evaluate the impact of the implemented prevention program.

Target group:

- participants of the trainings in 5 project schools and comparative group (1 school),
- Children and adults.

Research:

1. Quantitative (questionnaire)
2. Qualitative (individual structured interview)



Impact research. Children

	1 st stage	2 nd stage
Children interviews	29	24
Children questionnaires	285	172
Total:	314	196



Impact research. Children.

- Knowledge of program participants was improved, their attitudes became more realistic (independently from age and gender).
- Knowledge of 1-5 grade students improved more than 6-7 grade students.
- Knowledge and attitudes of control group children stayed on the same level.
- In majority cases, students associated sexual abuse with physical actions (participants of the program broadened their understanding of sexual abuse).
- 6-12 grade program participants attributed more guilt for the sexually abused child in the second stage of research.



Impact research. Adults

Individual structured interview: 35 participants

Questionnaires:

	1 st stage	2 nd stage
Teachers	109	122
School administration	10	11
School specialists	15	14
Other school personnel	24	21
Other adults	5	12
Functions not stated	19	30
Total:	182	210



Impact research. Adults.

- Knowledge of program participants was improved, their attitudes changed.
- In some cases, the resistance for attitude change was noticed. Longer learning process is needed for a sufficient change.
- Knowledge and attitudes of control group adults stayed on the same level.
- Level of knowledge of school specialists, directly working with children, is higher than other staff.



Discussion of outcomes (1)

To create sexual abuse prevention and intervention model for educational system in Lithuania.

- The prevention model is developed, piloted and evaluated
- The intervention model is still under the question.



Discussion of outcomes (2)

To raise sensitivity and competence of the school community considering child sexual abuse intervention and prevention.

- The sensitivity and competence of adult school community is raised. Yet there is voluntary participation on the side of staff and parents in adult training.
- The training of school age children depends very much on the decisions of school management because prevention programs are both compulsory, but optional.
- There is no system of inclusion of prevention programs into educational process. School decide if they need sexual abuse program.



Discussion of outcomes (3)

To facilitate interdisciplinary cooperation in the implementation of Program of Sexual Abuse Prevention at Schools including school, educational centers, pedagogical psychological services, NGOs and other bodies.

- NGO-s (Caritas, Save the Children and other), health care and other institutions also could be included as places to implement “Protect and Respect me”.
- There are difficulties in common understanding about and in particularly actions in the cases of suspicion of sexual abuse between different systems and institutions.



Thank you for your attention!

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