

Children's Services is a program of the May Institute, an award-winning network of educational, behavioral, and rehabilitative programs that make progress possible for individuals with special needs. Children's Services provides time-limited, community-based mental health services for youth ages 3-18 in the greater Fall River area. These services include flexible outreach, in-school programs, educational groups, and consultation.

The SPEAK Program represents the collaborative, community-oriented approach that Children's Services and the Department of Mental Health have developed over the years.

For more information on the SPEAK Program, contact:

Children's Services
Janet Shartle, LCSW, Program Director
or
Rafaela Defueirdo, SPEAK Coordinator
508-678-0041

Fall River School Department
Susanne Sterrett
508-675-8430

Fall River Police Department
Sgt. Cliff Wright
508-676-8511, ext. 141

About May Institute

May Institute is a nonprofit organization that provides educational, rehabilitative, and behavioral healthcare services to individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities, brain injury, mental illness, and other behavioral healthcare needs. The Institute also provides training and consultation services to professionals, organizations, and public school systems.

Since its founding more than 50 years ago, May Institute has evolved into an award-winning national network that serves over 25,000 individuals and their families annually at more than 200 service locations in the Northeast, Southeast, and on the West Coast. The Institute is an active center of research and training, maintaining affiliations with more than 55 universities, hospitals, and human service agencies worldwide.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

800.778.7601
www.mayinstitute.org

MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.

MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SPEAK Program

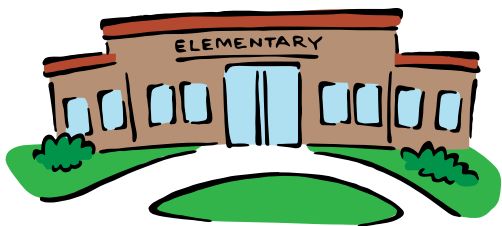
Teaching Children Strategies
to Prevent and Stop Child Abuse

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

SAFETY, PROTECTION, EDUCATION, AND ASSERTIVENESS FOR KIDS (SPEAK) PROGRAM

Preventing Child Abuse

Safety, Protection, Education, and Assertiveness for Kids (SPEAK) Program is a child abuse prevention program. Developed by the May Institute in collaboration with local mental health and law enforcement personnel, SPEAK is designed to educate youngsters about the issues of abuse.



Offered in the first and fourth grades, the SPEAK Program covers physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and neglect, but focuses on the prevention of sexual abuse. Through lively classroom presentations, children learn to identify abusive situations and employ specific strategies to stop or prevent victimization. Professionals from May's Children's Services also educate teachers concerning the process of abuse reporting and encourage parental involvement.

A Community Partnership

The SPEAK Program is a partnership between May's Children's Services, the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, Fall River public schools, and the Fall River Police Department.



Developing a close relationship with law enforcement professionals through the SPEAK Program allows children to obtain direct information related to the legal outcomes and role of police/courts in abuse situations.

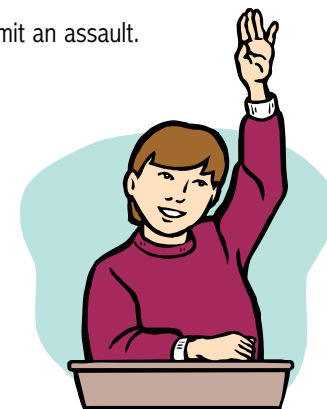
Child Sexual Assault Statistics

More than 100,000 children are reported as sexually abused in the United States every year. Experts estimate that most assaults go unreported, so in all likelihood, even more children are being hurt. Reports are sometimes not made because of common misunderstandings about sexual assault on children.

Some of those misunderstandings are listed below.

- Children usually lie about being sexually assaulted.
- Children deserve to be molested if they continue contact with the molester.

- The sexual abuse of children is not a crime.
- Infants are never sexually assaulted.
- Children always tell someone about sexual assaults.
- The majority of victims are abused by people they don't know.
- Young children will forget about their victimization.
- Children always hate someone who assaults them sexually.
- Children are better off if they don't talk about their assault.
- Child molesters are not a danger to society.
- Child molesters usually get caught the first time they commit an assault.
- Once a molester is convicted, he or she will not commit a sexual offense again.



All of the above statements are false.