



## Five Days of Action to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

April 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

*The Mount Baker Council joins with other youth serving organizations to protect children*

No one wants to imagine that it could ever happen to one of our children. Educate yourself on the facts NOW and make sure that your child does not become one of the unfortunate statistics. Child sexual abuse crosses ALL boundaries and is not limited by ethnicity, geography, or socioeconomic standing. The good news is, that if we as responsible adults arm ourselves with the facts, we CAN prevent child sexual abuse. Here's what you can do:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3UyHIY9scjFZVIndzFMVkJ00TzQ/view>

After much success last year, youth-serving organizations across the country will be taking part in Five Days of Action to raise the profile of this ever present threat again this year, from **April 24th-28th**—leading up to Healthy Kids Day.

**Darkness to Light** core principles for preventing, recognizing, and reacting responsibly to child sexual abuse, and form the framework for the [adult](#) training program, [Stewards of Children](#).

### What is Child Sexual Abuse?

- Any sexual act between an adult and a minor or between two minors when one exerts power over the other.
- Forcing, coercing or persuading a child to engage in any type of sexual act. It also includes non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or Internet.
- An agonizing and traumatic experience for its victims.
- A crime punishable by law.

### Download the 5 Steps Booklet Now!

[http://community.d2l.org/atf/cf/%7B64af78c4-5eb8-45aa-bc28-f7ee2b581919%7D/FINAL\\_D2L\\_5%20STEPS%20BOOKLET.PDF](http://community.d2l.org/atf/cf/%7B64af78c4-5eb8-45aa-bc28-f7ee2b581919%7D/FINAL_D2L_5%20STEPS%20BOOKLET.PDF)

### The 5 Steps Foundation

Personal empowerment helps provide adults with the capacity and momentum to take action against child sexual abuse. With personal empowerment, we can **make choices, take risks, and support each other** - the foundation of *The 5 Steps*.

### Making Choices

We have the ability - both in our organizations and in our families - to make proactive choices that protect children and keep them safe from sexual abuse. If we want our children to be happy and healthy, we must make choices which support that goal.

### **Taking Risks**

Choices often involve some personal risk that takes us outside our comfort zones - like talking to children about sexual boundaries, redirecting an adult who's crossing boundaries, or making an actual report. Sometimes we must take risks, even if we are uncertain or don't know the outcome, to make sure a child is protected.

### **Supporting Each Other**

When children take their first steps, ride their first bikes, or climb into the driver's seat for the first time, there is usually someone beside them providing guidance and support. It's easier to take big steps when you know you have someone on your side, ready to lend a hand if you need it. As communities, as organizations, and as individuals, we can give support to others' efforts to prevent child sexual abuse, and we can ask for support when we need it.

### **This is only the beginning.**

Child sexual abuse is a very complex problem, and these steps touch on only a small part of it. For a more in-depth understanding of child sexual abuse prevention, take [\*Stewards of Children\*](#) training.

The information we provide is not a substitute for the advice of professionals. It is only to give you simple, proactive steps to help protect children.

### **Family Safety Plan**

[http://www.stopitnow.org/sites/default/files/documents/files/tip\\_sheet\\_family\\_safety\\_plan.pdf](http://www.stopitnow.org/sites/default/files/documents/files/tip_sheet_family_safety_plan.pdf)