

Protecting children from Gang Influence

Tips for Parents

Spend time with each of your children everyday, Show affection and make them feel special and important

Children are attracted to gangs by their offer of friendship and support. Teach them early that gangs are dangerous and do not provide positive support or positive role models.

Teach your children what to do if gang members approach them.

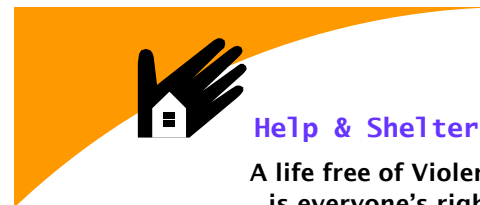
Know your children's friends and families and your children's whereabouts at all times.

If your child has learning difficulties, work together with his/her teachers, help your child with homework.

Children with a history of academic failures are at a higher risk for gang membership.

Be on the lookout for possible signs of gang membership

Keep your child active in sports, clubs, volunteer work and community activities



For help & information

Call
Social Services - 231-6556/225-6202
Family Welfare - 227-0129
Childcare and Protection Agency-227-0138

Or



Help & Shelter
Homestretch Avenue, D'Urban Park,
Georgetown
Phone: 592 - 227 - 3454/225 - 4731
Fax: 227 - 8353
Email: hands@networksgy.com
Website: www.hands.org.gy

Acknowledgements:

Avon Products Limited—September 2011

Protecting your Children



**A resource brochure for
school's Parent teachers
Association**



Protect your children from harm

Simple Steps

- ◆ Familiarize yourself with threats against your children. Know your enemy
- ◆ Accept that all children need supervision and guidance. Children lack the knowledge, maturity of judgment and experience of adults.
- ◆ Monitor the activities of your children. Parents have a responsibility of knowing where their children are, who they are with and the activities they are involved in.
- ◆ Investigate anything that may be suspicious. Adopt a balanced approach. Don't accuse your children of wrongdoing or mistrust everything they tell you.
- ◆ Look, listen and learn from your children. You should know your child better than anyone else and therefore can tell if something is wrong.
- ◆ Yearn to help your children when problems arise, Don't be selfish, it isn't about you but about helping them.

Dealing with Bullies

Tips for Parents

- ◆ Teach your children to stay clear of bullies
- ◆ Teach them to be assertive rather than aggressive or violent when confronted by a bully.
- ◆ Teach them never to try to defend themselves against a bully with weapons
- ◆ Keep communication lines open with your children
- ◆ Pay attention to the following symptoms of bullying:
 - * withdrawal
 - * Abrupt lack of interest in school
 - * A drop in grades
 - * Signs of physical abuse
- ◆ If your child is being bullied, inform school officials immediately. Keep your own written records of the names, dates, times, and circumstances of bullying incidents.
- ◆ Respond to your children's concerns and fears with patience, love and support.

Avoiding Sexual Harassment

Tips for Parents

- ◆ Talk to your children about sexual harassment. Provide examples
- ◆ Be alert to the following symptoms
 - * chronic anxiety,
 - * concentration problems,
 - * withdrawn or depressed behavior,
 - * insomnia,
 - * body image problems
 - * fear of going to school.
- ◆ Encourage children to tell you about any incidents that make them feel bad, embarrassed, scared or uncomfortable.
- ◆ Establish a policy on sexual harassment at your children's school if none is in place. This should be done with the support of concerned parents and the school's principal.