

Dear SLSD Elementary Families,

In April, our students will participate in child abuse and bullying awareness workshops facilitated by trained staff from the Council on Child Abuse of Southern Ohio (COCA). COCA provides workshops to over 20,000 children per year in a variety of school districts and settings including Cincinnati Public Schools, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Northwest School District, Norwood City Schools, Forest Hills Schools, Oak Hills Schools, charter schools, and many others.

COCA staff specialize in delivering age-appropriate presentations on the topics of preventing child abuse, bullying, and dating violence. Each presentation is modified to be best suited for your child's grade and level of understanding and includes relevant activities and videos to help facilitate interactive learning and discussion.

The workshops on bullying will be presented to students. They will teach students how to recognize the types of bullying (Physical, Verbal, Social, Sexual, and Cyber) and provide strategies on handling difficult social situations and bully behavior. They will also have an opportunity to discuss information about internet safety.

The workshops on child abuse will be presented as well. Younger students (grades K-2) will learn the difference between safe and unsafe touches. Older students (grades 3-8) will learn to recognize the types of child abuse (Physical, Verbal, Sexual, Emotional, and Neglect). All students will learn the importance of telling a trusted adult if child abuse is suspected.

All students will have the opportunity to speak with one of our trained staff following the classroom presentation. This is a time for them to ask questions or express any concerns in a one on one conversation. This portion of the program is optional.

Please take the time to talk to your child about the program and discuss any questions or comments s/he might have about the subject. Add your personal thoughts and rules, too.

If you have questions or concerns about the content of COCA's presentations, please visit the FAQ page of their website at [www.cocachild.org](http://www.cocachild.org).

All students will participate in this program unless they have a written opt-out form indicating that you do not give permission. Opt-out forms will be available starting in March, upon request from your child's School Counselor. If you have additional questions, please call **Megan Stagege** (Program Coordinator) at (513)-993-7169 or **Erin Smith** (Program Assistant) at the Council on Child Abuse at (513)964-4652.