

## Erin's Law

In 2011 Missouri was the 2nd of 35 states to pass Erin's Law, with revisions in 2014. Through this legislation, Missouri's Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children created these recommendations:

- Age appropriate curriculum for students pre-kindergarten through 5th grade.
- Education to parents/guardians on recognizing signs of abuse.
- Actions a child victim can take to obtain assistance.
- Increased awareness of issues regarding the sexual abuse of children.

The Green Bear Program covers **all** topics listed above.

### Missouri Revised Statute 170.045

Each school district shall provide trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate sexual abuse training to students in all grades **not lower than sixth grade**. School districts must include the following components in their training:

- Instruction providing students with the knowledge and tools to recognize sexual abuse.
- Instruction providing students with the knowledge and tools to report an incident of sexual abuse.
- Actions that a student who is a victim of sexual abuse could take to obtain assistance and intervention.
- Available resources for students affected by sexual abuse.

Surviving the Dating Game and S.A.F.E. Guides cover **all** topics listed above.

## Green Bear History

The Green Bear Program was imagined in September 2001 following the tragic death of a former foster child, Baby Ty, after being returned home to his biological parents. The Green Bear Program was created in 2002 to educate children on the definition of child abuse and what to do if abuse occurs. Adults are instructed on ways to prevent child abuse and how to respond to suspected abuse.

### SEMO-NASV

Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence (SEMO-NASV) was formed in the summer of 1997 to address issues of adult and child sexual violence. For over 25 years, the agency has provided forensic interviews and exams, advocacy, counseling, and prevention education to Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Scott, and Stoddard counties. SEMO-NASV believes in **"Listening to every voice...Advocating for every heart."**

*SEMO-NASV is a 501c3 nonprofit organization - your donation is tax deductible. For more information, visit our website, [greenbearmo.org](http://greenbearmo.org). You may also visit SEMO-NASV's website at [semonasv.org](http://semonasv.org) to learn more about services offered.*

# the GREEN BEAR PROJECT

Sponsored by: Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence with funding provided by private donations



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ONE PERSON CAN MAKE  
**A DIFFERENCE**  
IN A CHILD'S LIFE!

The Green Bear Project's mission is to assist communities in preventing child abuse and promote openness regarding disclosure of victimization.

It is imperative communities recognize the signs and symptoms of abuse and hold offenders accountable for their actions. We support this by offering the following **FREE CLASSES** to children, parents, mandated reporters, and concerned citizens.

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## Elementary School Program Green Bear Program

(Pre-kindergarten - 5th Grade)

This program teaches personal body safety classes to children in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. In 30-minute sessions, we utilize puppet shows, storybooks, and activity books to focus on 3 main themes:

- **Definition** - We define child abuse in a developmentally appropriate manner.
- **Disclosure** - We instruct students on grownups they can tell at home, at school, and in their community. We encourage children to keep telling different grownups until someone helps them.
- **Deterrents** - We discuss different actions students and their families can take to decrease the chances of abuse.

Throughout the program we emphasize to children that child abuse is *never* their fault and discuss different feelings they may have if they are abused.



## Sixth through Twelfth Grade Programs

S.A.F.E. Guides for 6th - 12th grade are based on guidelines established by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in collaboration with Missouri KidsFirst. These guidelines were created after receiving a mandate from Missouri's legislature based on RSMo. 170.045 requiring schools to provide trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate sexual abuse training to students over 6th grade. Our 45 minute classes include:

- **S.A.F.E. Guide to Healthy Relationships (6th grade)**
- **S.A.F.E. Guide to Boundaries (7th grade)**
- **S.A.F.E. Guide to Helping Others (8th grade)**
- **S.A.F.E. Guide to Dating (9th and 10th grades)**
- **S.A.F.E. Guide to Communication (11th grade)**

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## Surviving the Dating Game (12th Grade)

This program introduces students to the adult dating world. Students are instructed on online safety, establishing consent, and how to establish and maintain a healthy relationship.

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*All students completing our 6th - 12th grade programs will receive a HELP card which not only helps students, but adults receiving the card as well.*

## Community Programs

### A Guide For Mandated Reporters: Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse

The Green Bear Project offers a 2-hour training for Missouri's Mandated Reporters. This program can be performed for schools, private or community organizations, faith-based entities, or as a community event. *Topics Include:*

- Signs and symptoms of child abuse
- Responding to a child who discloses abuse
- Reporting suspected abuse to Missouri's Child Abuse Hotline
- Understanding the importance of the multi-disciplinary team approach when working with survivors of abuse
- Penalties for failing to report suspected child abuse

### Raising Healthy Children In Your Community

This program includes information on developing collaborative child abuse prevention efforts, protecting all children from abuse, online dangers, and more. This class can be taught as a community coalition project, or for a specific school, organization, or faith-based entity.

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*Through your community organizations, faith-based entities, and school systems, we can plan a free community-wide event such as a mandated reporter class or community class. Contact us for details.*

**To schedule a class, contact SEMO-NASV at:**



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