



## Research

### Magenu: Evidence Informed Education on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

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*Two strategies are generally discussed for the prevention of child sexual abuse; managing offenders and school-based intervention programs\*.*

#### MAGENU'S PROGRAM

Magenu's goal is to lower the numbers of sexual abuse cases within our Jewish communities. We strive to take all the research and scientific reviews on sexual abuse prevention and apply it in a modest fashion. We provide age-appropriate curriculum with preschool, early elementary, and middle school comprised of different programming and methods of application. We use behavioral methods, role-playing, discussions, and worksheets, which have been proven to be most effective.

Unlike other programs, which teach children all the information in one lesson, our curriculum is 4 lessons, a proven-method that works with astounding results. Research has demonstrated that programs are more effective if they are longer in duration (four sessions or more), if they repeat important concepts, if they provide children with multiple opportunities to actively practice the taught notions and skills, and if they are based on concrete concepts (what is forbidden) rather than abstract notions (rights or feelings).<sup>1</sup> Magenu takes this very seriously as we have seen the difference in information retention by the children following the lessons. Each lesson builds on the previous one strengthening the concepts taught, and the children's understanding. In addition, it allows the children to formulate questions and opinions, and discuss their thoughts while giving them a sense of comfort with this potentially uncomfortable topic.

Magenu distributes parent newsletters after the completion of every lesson so that parents/caregivers can take the information and review it with their children at home. This further enhances the children's retention and is a great method for starting conversations between parents/caregivers and their children.

Magenu also sends home games and activity sheets to be completed at home, thereby furthering discussions with the parents/caregivers and allowing the children to ask questions, review the information, and practice the concepts taught.

As the strength of the program is based on repetition and review, teachers should teach the curriculum throughout the year, interweaving the safety lessons into daily school life. With this in mind, Magenu created a teacher's workbook, which includes full scripts, classroom activities, and follow-up lesson plans for optimal lesson learning<sup>2</sup>.

Unlike other programs, the Magenu Parent night is practical, tips-and-tool based, rather than fear oriented. Fear does not seem to work and is often counterproductive. Some anxiety is necessary to convey the importance of the topic but too much only proves to immobilize. Our goal is empowerment through education, which we believe can be accomplished when taught properly.

Our staff workshop consists of two components. The first encompasses indicators of abuse, mandated reporting, and handling disclosures. The second and just as important piece is ways that the staff can keep themselves safe from compromising situations. In today's climate, with children more exposed to the outside world, ensuring staff is protected is as crucial as ensuring the protection of the student body.

Overall, Magenu is confident that school-based intervention programs can lower the rates of child sexual abuse cases and can encourage disclosures when abuse is occurring. Education is empowerment and we are dedicated to educating all aspects of our community on how to keep our children safe.

*\* To read the complete research paper, including a full reference list, on why Magenu's program is effective, please visit our website.*

1. Collin-Vézina, D., Daigneault, I., & Hébert, M. (2013). Lessons learned from child sexual abuse research: Prevalence, outcomes, and preventive strategies. *Child And Adolescent Psychiatry And Mental Health*, 7

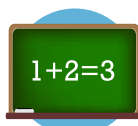
2. Pohl, J. D., & Hazzard, A. (1990). Reactions of children, parents, and teachers to child sexual abuse prevention programs. *Education*





# LESSON ONE

## Self Esteem and Feelings



1+2=3

### Educational Goals and Objectives

- Each child will learn and explore the topic of self esteem and its importance in behavior.
- Feelings are personal and are important to acknowledge.
- Sometimes we may feel confused or mixed up and that's an ok feeling as well.



### Materials Needed

- Teaching cards
- Jersey handout activity
- Parent newsletter 1





### Sample Script

*What does the word self-esteem mean? Self esteem is how you think and feel about yourself. It's knowing some of the qualities that make you unique and what you like about yourself. Self esteem influences our behavior. If we have positive self esteem we tend to act responsibly, we can handle lifes frustrations and emotions and we can have pride in our accomplishments.*

(Ask students how they think others can add or take away from how you feel about yourself and what can help build or tear down your self confidence).



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