

Lantern Program

Protecting our young children from sexual violence

All children deserve to lead happy lives, develop in a healthy environment, thrive and achieve their full potential. No child should be subjected to violence. No child should live with the repercussions that violence inflicts on every level: psychological, physical, academic, social and on family dynamics.



Do you know how to protect your child against sexual violence? Do you have questions about sex education for young children?

If these questions concern you, know that the Lantern program is coming soon to your child's pre-school, daycare or community organization. This program will help you find the answers, tools and advice you need to teach sex education to your child and, as in so doing, better protect them against sexual violence.

What is the Lantern program?

The Lantern program, developed by the Marie-Vincent Foundation, is a sexual violence prevention program that focuses on sex education and the promotion of egalitarian relationships. It is intended for preschool-aged children and for the adults (parents, educators, etc.) in their lives.

Children, particularly preschool-aged children, are especially vulnerable to this type of violence, which is why they are a priority in terms of prevention.

The Lantern program was developed based on needs reported by nearly a hundred parents from a diverse range of social and cultural settings, as well as early childhood educators who spend time with children daily.



Lantern program books

What is sex education?

Sex education is part of every family's day-to-day life and it helps prevent sexual violence against young children.

Did you know that every day, as a parent, you can educate your child about healthy sexuality?

You can do this, among other things, by:

- answering their questions, including questions about sexuality;
- promoting gender equality;
- teaching them to ensure that their personal space is respected and to respect others' personal space;
- teaching them the concepts of privacy -- for example, when they go to the bathroom or are changing their clothes;
- helping them to recognize and properly identify the parts of their body, including the sex organs;
- helping them identify and express their emotions.

In addition to what you already do every day, you can incorporate a few additional sex education concepts by using simple vocabulary that is concrete and tailored to young children's level of development.

The Lantern program can help you learn how.

As a parent, you are the first influence on your young child's sex education. You act as a model by conveying your values as you spend time together every day.

Lantern program game:
Marvin, What Should We Play?



What topics are covered in the Lantern program?

All the topics covered in the Lantern program are tailored to young children's understanding and level of development.

Using storybooks and games, your child will learn to recognize their emotions and to better express them, to understand their anatomy, to identify the parts of their bodies that are private, to identify trusted adults around them in case of danger and to recognize situations and actions involving them that are unacceptable.

Your child will also learn that girls and boys are equal, that they can achieve the same dreams and that they must develop harmonious and respectful relationships.

By educating children as early as possible on all aspects of sexuality (emotional, relational, cultural, cognitive, biological, identity, etc.) we can help them protect themselves against sexual violence and learn to disclose situations where they may potentially have been victimized.

Questions?

Did you know that Lantern program has tools to facilitate cooperation between parents and early childhood educators?

The tools offer the possibility to continue the learning at home and to have discussions about sex education for the very young.

Find out more at your child's preschool, daycare or community organization, or visit our website: marie-vincent.org



The Lantern program was made possible by Avenir d'enfants and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Public Health Agency of Canada.



Financial contribution from

Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

