Mississippi Chapter

January 15, 2019

Dana F. Larkin, Executive Director
Growing Up Knowing
P.O. Box 16123
Jackson, Mississippi 39236

To Whom It May Concern:

Our organization is a professional membership organization for Mississippi pediatricians and would like to offer our support for the Growing Up Knowing organization’s My Body, My Boundaries abuse prevention program.

Unfortunately, pediatricians know and see the tragic consequences of abuse, and therefore we support efforts to help children avoid abuse. My Body, My Boundaries targets elementary age children (kindergarten through fifth graders) and their parents/caregivers. This curriculum teaches children and their parents/caregivers about their bodies and provides the knowledge and tools to stay safe. The program partners with schools, religious institutions, afterschool programs, and other community organizations to implement My Body, My Boundaries throughout Mississippi, at no cost to the partnering organization. My Body, My Boundaries focuses on abuse and bully prevention and increasing communication between children and their parents. Trained facilitators are used to impart this evidence-based curriculum in a safe and trusting environment. The curriculum has also been translated into Spanish to meet the needs of a diverse population.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends “parents teach children early and often that there are no secrets between children and their parents, and that they should feel comfortable talking with their parents about anything – good or bad, fun or sad, easy or difficult.” Therefore, the focus of Growing Up Knowing’s program for families with three-and-four-year-olds is then to strongly encourage age-appropriate discussions about sensitive topics including the correct anatomical names, physical boundaries, and respect for their bodies. My Body, My Boundaries for Early Childhood Families will soon be available statewide.

We encourage your strong consideration for helping support and further these worthwhile programs.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Mahan
Chapter Executive Director