

MAY 17, 2016

Breaking the Stigma of Sexual Abuse

Dax Shepard Speaks Out About the Impact of Sexual Abuse

By Kerry Ferguson

Recently, celebrity actor Dax Shepard, who previously appeared on NBC's Parenthood and is also married to actress Kristen Bell, revealed in an interview that he had been molested as a child. Dax disclosed on The Jason Ellis Show that he was just 7 years old when he was abused by his 18 year old neighbor.



Initially, Dax viewed the incident as minimal with him not telling anyone about the abuse for 12 years. He said that he blamed himself and even considered he may have been gay as a reason why the abuse occurred. Dax publicly struggled with drug and alcohol abuse in which he now feels his addiction was fueled by the molestation. Dax's mother is a court-appointed advocate for children in foster care and recently shared a statistic with Dax. At a seminar, Dax's mother learned that if child has been molested, there is only a 20% chance of them not becoming an addict.

Every 107 seconds a sexual assault occurs with approximately 293,000 victims of sexual assault each year, this is a shocking statistic. The Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) have published statistics which show that 44% of victims are under the age of 18. Most importantly, research shows that the majority of sexual abuse perpetrators know the child.

KEEP READING

Additional Resources

[My Body Belongs to Me](#)

(an animated short film to educate children about sexual abuse)

[Parenting a Child Who Has Been Sexually Abused](#)

(Child Welfare Information Gateway)

[Beyond Sexual Abuse: Families Can Promote Healing](#)

(North American Council on Adoptable Children)

[What Parents Need to Know About Sexual Abuse](#)

(The National Child Traumatic Stress Network)

IS YOUR TEEN READY TO LIVE, LEARN & WORK AS AN ADULT?

A Free Training on Preparing Youth for Adult Living, Learning & Working

Planning for the future can be overwhelming for all youth but for those exiting the foster care system it can be even more challenging but is also very necessary. Centering the plan around the transitioning youth's own strengths, interests and goals is essential in paving the way to a successful adult life. This training will explain:

- What "permanency" is & what it means for youth & their lives
- What the transition process is & why it is important
- Transition planning strategies & supports
- Unique grants/scholarship opportunities for youth
- How to support youth's participation in transition planning

Information regarding community resources will be available.

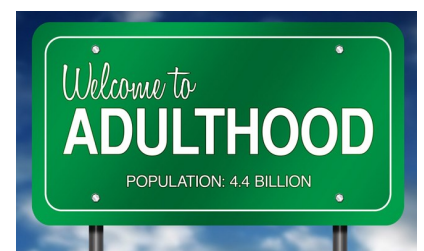
TRAINING HELD IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

(Click on link to view individual flyers)

[WATERLOO](#) (June 4 - 9am to 2pm)

[DUBUQUE](#) (June 11 - 9am to 2pm)

[CEDAR RAPIDS](#) (June 18 - 9am to 2pm)



SOCIAL media



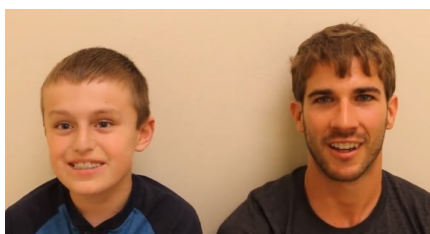
MOM'S VIDEO OF 2-YEAR-OLD BOY WITH AUTISM 'FALLING IN LOVE' WITH SNOW WHITE AT DISNEY PARK GOES VIRAL

A sweet video showing a 2-year-old boy with autism "falling in love" with Snow White at a Disney theme park has been viewed millions of times after it was posted to Facebook by his mother recently.

"Jack Jack" is typically shy with people he doesn't know, and was "having nothing to do" with any of the characters he interacted with on the family's vacation, according to Amanda Coley, the boy's mother. Then he met Snow White. "I must have cried 1,000 tears watching his interaction with her. He was in love," Coley wrote.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Source: KTLA



INTELLIGENCE IN EVERYBODY

There are many different types of intelligence in our world. In order to increase human potential we must start appreciating, acknowledging and fostering every type.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Source: Special Books by Special Kids

Shared Parenting

Putting the Needs of Children First

Imagine your favorite potted plant. Now picture someone taking that plant and cutting it off where the plant meets the soil and sticking the remaining stem into a new pot of dirt. The plant doesn't thrive and yet you gave it a great new pot with fresh soil, water, and organic fertilizer. Must be something wrong with that plant . . .

Or is it that we, as a system, have just cut the child off from the roots of his family and taken him out of his familiar soil? What if we can help him to retain his roots while we're temporarily replanting him until the first pot is able to mend a few holes? (Thanks to the Institute of Human Services for the example.)

Shared parenting is the newest term for what some foster families have been doing all along—welcoming a relationship with the family of the child in care. It happens successfully when foster parents and parents work together to raise children.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Source: Coalition for Children, Youth & Families

Upcoming IFAPA Training

The ABC's of Early Childhood Connections: Nurturing Social & Emotional Development in Infants & Toddlers

Participants will learn the stages of infant and young children's social-emotional development, how early experiences shape development, and ways in which adults can support children's development including self-regulation. We will explore the importance of all relationships that involve a child (e.g. parent-child) and why it's essential to consider ways to cultivate resiliency in children and their families. [VIEW DESCRIPTION](#)

Sat., June 4 (9am-12:15pm) ANKENY [REGISTER HERE](#)

Child Sex Trafficking in America

[View Guide for Parents & Guardians](#)



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