

Monday, April 16, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kyle Anderson, and I am a 3rd grade teacher at Grandville East Elementary. This past winter, we were fortunate to have a presentation by Kidz Have Rights coordinator Tanya Muehlbauer. She led a meaningful discussion with my students, as well as the other 3rd grade and two 2nd grade classes, on the difficult topic of body safety.

My young students responded thoughtfully and with surprising maturity to her questions and statements. Two of them approached me privately afterwards to share their past experiences with adults putting them in uncomfortable situations. Though these events were years in the past for both students and it was clearly painful for them to relive some of these memories, it was clear that they also felt relief in opening themselves to another caring adult. One of these students was experiencing much emotional turmoil at the time, and I believe that unloading some of the nagging feelings of responsibility for what happened to her helped in making tremendous strides in emotional maturity and self-confidence, which has since positively impacted her learning and social interactions with other children at our school.

I credit Ms. Muehlbauer and the Kids Have Rights program for this positive development, and am certain that many others in our class will benefit in the future by knowing how to respond when they find themselves in difficult and dangerous situations. This is a program from which all elementary age children should benefit, and I support whatever things are done to sustain it in the future.

Sincerely,

Kyle R. Anderson
3rd grade teacher
Grandville East Elementary