



The #1 Reason Children Recant Abuse Allegations

In the world of child forensic interviewing, there is a well-known fact...

Disclosure is a process, not a one-time event.

Disclosing abuse, be it sexual, physical, psychological or neglect, can be incredibly difficult for a child. The same holds true for adults... imagine yourself sitting in a room with someone you just met who begins asking questions about your last sexual encounter...

- Were you alone?
- How many people were in the room?
- Were pictures or videos taken?
- What you were doing... and what happened next?
- What were you wearing?
- Why did it stop?

Children who have been victims of abuse can experience a wide range of thoughts and emotions from not knowing or understanding the abuse is wrong... to being fearful for their safety or the safety of people they love... to feeling ashamed and that they are actually the root cause of the abuse.

In approximately 23% of child abuse cases, children recant (take-back) allegations of abuse. Research has been conducted to better understand why children do this:

the #1 reason children recant abuse allegations is their primary, non-offending caregiver (which in the vast majority of cases is the mother) DOES NOT believe them. In a study published by the Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, 46% of the children recanted their prior disclosure when mothers merely suggested that they should.

In contrast, no children in the supportive condition recanted, implying that children are unlikely to make spontaneous recantations following supportive caregiver reactions – at least when it comes to minor acts of wrongdoing committed by adults.”

#1 reason continued on page 2

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In this issue:

#1 Reason Children Recant Child Abuse Allegations	1
#1 Reason continued	2
Volunteer Opportunities	2
VASH Units	3
Committee Happenings	3
CAP Center Corner	4
Community Happenings	4

October Quote: “If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever.”

-Kofi Annan

Club
President:

Cory
Hasiak



October Volunteer Opportunities:

October 5th—

Shinedown & Godsmack

October 13th - 20th—

NILE Rodeo

October 26th—Rod

Stewart



Future Volunteer Opportunities:

November 17th—Harlem

Globetrotters

November 18th—

Mannheim Steamroller

December 23rd—Chase

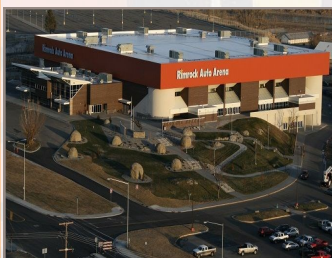
Hawks Rodeo

January 27th—Jeff

Dunham

January 29th—Bob

Seger



EXCHANGE

BREAKFAST EXCHANGE CLUB OF BILLINGS, MT

From the abstract:

"No age differences in recantation rates emerged, but 8- and 9-year-olds were more likely than 6- and 7-year-olds to maintain their recantation throughout Interview 2. Children whose mothers reacted supportively to disclosure became more forthcoming in Interview 2, and those whose mothers reacted unsupportively became less forthcoming. Results advance theoretical understanding of how children disclose negative experiences, including sociomotivational influences on their reports, and have practical implications for the legal system."

So, what does this mean?

Children are more likely to recant when they are younger, abused by a parent figure and who lacked support from the non-offending caregiver.

In a nutshell, nearly a quarter of children who make allegations of abuse will "take back" or "change their story" IF their moms don't believe them or suggest they are in some way wrong or at fault for the abuse. Sanford Health in North Dakota summarizes child recantation: "Recantation is common among children who disclose sexual abuse; approximately 23% of children who disclose sexual abuse later recant. Studies show that most children who recant are telling the truth when they originally disclose. Recantation is largely a result of familial adult influences rather than a result of false allegations."

Children are more likely to recant when they are younger, abused by a parent figure and who lacked support from the non-offending caregiver. Interestingly, children who were placed in foster care immediately following the disclosure of sexual abuse were slightly less likely to recant than those children who remained with family members. Finally, when looking at reaffirmation rates, the researchers noted that 48.3% of the children who recanted their statements of sexual abuse eventually reaffirmed at least some part of those statements."

Hey, moms!... and dads, guardians and other people who care for children — if a child EVER discloses abuse to you, there are 3 responses you MUST make:

1. **Say "I believe you."** The facts will work themselves out in the end, but at the moment a child chooses to confide in you, you have a responsibility to trust that child and believe him/her. Not doing so can have long-term, damaging effects, including continued victimization of the child. Research also indicates that the percentage of false allegations made by children is extremely low, so odds are, your child is disclosing something that did indeed happen.
2. **Assure the child, "It wasn't your fault."** Sexual predators and abusers often will place blame for the abuse back on the child victim in an attempt to keep him/her quiet or 'accept' the abuse.
3. **Immediately secure the child and report the abuse.** I don't care who the allegations are made against... your spouse, another child, a family member... you have an obligation to protect that child by ensuring s/he is NOT in the presence of the alleged abuser and then allowing professional investigators the opportunity to figure out what's going on. Mandated reporters of abuse vary from state to state here in the U.S., but I believe we all have a moral obligation to report which, in turn, shows that child s/he is important enough to protect!

Sources: www.americanspcc.org

The Board voted in two new members during the September Board Meeting. Be sure and introduce yourself to Mickaela Cerise and Leonie Gelfarth.

MADE IN U.S.A.

Coop. H. E. Lührs

Committee Happenings:

Social Committee—

Yard Game Olympics coming your way Saturday, October 6th.

BECON Committee—

Your October BECON Editor is Rod Hessler.

Program Committee—

John McCalla is arranging the October speakers.

Patriotism Committee—

Keep an eye out for a program for Veteran's Day in November.

GET INVOLVED!!

**** Committee Chairs—**
Please email your upcoming events to dlnaharmon1212@gmail.com to be included in next months news-



Come weekly at 7:00 a.m. on Friday to the Yellowstone Room and get to know your fellow Exchangites!



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What kind of place does a place does a homeless veteran get with their VASH voucher? You may remember just a short time ago when funds were raised for The Housing Authority of Billings VASH deposit assistance program via the Food Truck Battle on the Yellowstone. Did you wonder what kind of place someone using a VASH voucher gets into? A studio apartment dump barely standing? A eight bedroom house off the Country Club that is more than most of us could afford? Well, in my opinion, the units are a nice, modest, clean and safe two bedroom apartment to lay your head at the end of day.



Everyone likes to see what their hard work and/or money contributes to!!



**THE BREAKFAST
EXCHANGE CLUB OF
BILLINGS, MT**

PO Box 2224
Billings, MT 59103

www.breakfastexchangeclub.org

Exchange, America's Service Club, is a group of men and women working together to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, Community Service, Youth Activities, and its national project, the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Looking for something to do and support community organizations at the same time?

October 6—The Wine Mile to benefit Multiple Sclerosis research.

October 7—Walk to End Alzheimer's

October 13—a night of Hope benefiting Tumbleweed

Mondays—Community Monday @ Hooligans (each week benefits different organization)

Tuesdays—Pint night at Last Chance Cider House (each week benefits different organization)

Tuesdays—Bingo Night at 406 Kitchen & Taproom (each week benefits different organization)



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CAP Center Corner

The benefits to reading to young children

Children who are read to at home have a higher success rate in school.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), a division of the U.S. Department of Education, children who are read to at home enjoy a substantial advantage over children who are not:

- Twenty-six percent of children who were read to three or four times in the last week by a family member recognized all letters of the alphabet. This is compared to 14 percent of children who were read to less frequently.
- The NCES also reported that children who were read to frequently are also more likely to:
 - count to 20, or higher than those who were not (60% vs. 44%)
 - write their own names (54% vs. 40%)
 - read or pretend to read (77% vs. 57%)
- According to NCES, only 53 percent of children ages three to five were read to daily by a family member (1999). Children in families with incomes below the poverty line are less likely to be read to aloud everyday than are children in families with incomes at or above poverty.
- The more types of reading materials there are in the home, the higher students are in reading proficiency, according to the Educational Testing Service.
- The Educational Testing Services reported that students who do more reading at home are better readers and have higher math scores; however, students read less for fun as they get older.

Children who read frequently develop stronger reading skills.

- According to the National Education Association, having kids read a lot is one of the crucial components of becoming a good reader. Young readers need to become practiced at recognizing letters and sounds. The only way to get good at it is to practice.
- The U.S. Department of Education found that, generally, the more students read for fun on their own time, the higher their reading scores. Between 1984 and 1996, however, the percentage of 12th grade students reporting that they "never" or "hardly ever" read for fun increased from 9 percent to 16 percent.
- A poll of middle and high school students commissioned by the National Education Association found that 56 percent of young people say they read more than 10 books a year, with middle school students reading the most. Some 70 percent of middle school students read more than 10 books a year, compared with only 49 percent of high school students.

Other facts

- The substantial relationship between parent involvement for the school and reading comprehension levels of fourth-grade classrooms is obvious, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Where parent involvement is low, the classroom mean average (reading score) is 46 points below the national average. Where involvement is high, classrooms score 28 points above the national average - a gap of 74 points. Even after controlling for other attributes of communities, schools, principals, classes, and students, that might confound this relationship, the gap is 44 points.
- The National Assessment of Educational Progress tested children nationwide for reading skills. The results for reading tests for fourth-grade students were: Below the most basic level 38 percent; Proficient 31 percent, and Advanced 7 percent.



Sources: www.nea.org