

## About Committee for Children



**Who we are:** The nonprofit Committee for Children is the world's largest provider of educational programs that prevent bullying and sexual abuse. From Iowa to Iraq, Chile to Chicago, we are helping more than 9 million children in 25,000 schools in 26 countries around the globe to stay safe, respect themselves and others, succeed in school today, and build a better world tomorrow.

**How we came to be:** In the mid-1970s, University of Washington cultural anthropologists Drs. Jennifer James and Debra Boyer conducted a landmark research study about what led youth into prostitution. They found that a remarkable percentage of prostitutes on U.S. streets had been sexually abused as children. Their research prompted them in 1976 to establish a nonprofit whose mission encompassed research into preventing sexual abuse. Through the years we have been guided by the belief that we can change the world by teaching children to be safe; get along; and be caring, responsible members of their families, schools, and communities. Our vision is simple but profound: ***Safe children living in a peaceful world.***

**What we do:** Committee for Children's engaging, innovative social-emotional learning materials empower children to protect themselves, work through problems with empathy and reason, and respect others' points of view. Schools become safer and calmer places where teachers can teach and children can learn. We develop, distribute, and support three educational programs:

- ♥ The **Talking About Touching** program trains parents and teachers in strategies for protecting children from potential abuse while teaching children about personal safety and how to speak up if they encounter "unsafe touch."
- ♥ The **Steps to Respect** program prevents bullying by helping adults establish a safe, positive school climate and respond effectively to bullying, while teaching elementary students strategies to prevent bullying.
- ♥ The **Second Step** program teaches preschool through middle school students key social-emotional skills that can help them academically, such as Skills for Learning, empathy, emotion management, problem solving and. In older grades, children learn to make healthy choices and stay engaged in school despite the threats of substance abuse, bullying, and peer pressure.

**How we know our programs work:** We have become internationally recognized experts in social-emotional learning by ensuring that all our programs are based on rigorous research. Our own and independent research studies consistently show that our programs improve safety skills, increase positive social behavior, reduce bullying, decrease classroom disruptions, and enhance academic performance.

**Our impact:** In today's contentious world, where violence is too often the response to differing values and viewpoints, our programs have the potential to change the way today's children interact peacefully as tomorrow's leaders. Now more than ever, the question is not "Should we teach these lessons and skills to our children?" The question is, ***"What will happen to our world if we don't?"***

**How others can help:** As an entrepreneurial nonprofit organization whose core operations are supported by the sale of educational programs to schools around the world, we rely on donations from individuals, businesses and foundations to keep our prices affordable for financially pressed school districts; reach more children in underprivileged schools locally, nationally and abroad; and advance research and innovation to continually improve our efforts.

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