



Human Trafficking Parent Letter



Dear Parent,

Did you know that each year, more than 300,000 school-aged children are lured into a type of exploitation called human trafficking? Human trafficking occurs when someone is recruited, hidden, or transported against their will for services and the financial gain of another person. Though you may think of trafficking as a danger that only threatens children in other countries, it is very real problem in all 50 states, and any child can become a victim – no matter their location, socioeconomic status, race, or religion.

Children are inherently vulnerable, and traffickers are skilled at targeting kids in-person and online. That's why schools around the country are choosing to include developmentally appropriate human trafficking prevention into comprehensive personal safety education curriculum. Human traffickers use psychological manipulation to gain and maintain control by identifying children's vulnerabilities and working to fill whatever need they may have. This could be a need for belonging, for material items, or for basic necessities like protection, food or shelter.

To help your child avoid exploitation and the traps traffickers set, we have extended the safety concepts they are learning in each lesson of the 5th grade *Safer, Smarter Kids* curriculum to encompass protective principles specific to trafficking prevention – while continuing our commitment to presenting information in a manner that is age appropriate for your 5th grader.

Teachers will teach each core 5th grade *Safer, Smarter Kids* lesson, followed by a Crosswalk to Human Trafficking Lesson. Those crosswalk topics will include:

- Balance of Power
- Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships
- Safe Choices with Peers
- Understanding Recruiting
- Making Safe Decisions on the Internet and in Social Media
- Safe Use of Cameras
- Personal Violation
- Personal Boundary Violation
- Body Boundary Violation
- Identifying Types of Unsafe Secrets: Threat, Promise, Trick
- Accessing Help

Keeping the lines of communication open with your child by reinforcing and practicing the safety tools your child is learning will extend important safety practices into your home.

If you have additional questions about the content of these lessons, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Thank you,

Lauren Book, M.S.Ed.
Founder/CEO, Lauren's Kids



For more ways to talk with your child about staying safe, visit SaferSmarterFamilies.org; for additional resources, visit LaurensKids.org.

To report abuse, call the ChildHelp National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-422-4453, and you will be referred to your local abuse reporting agency.



LAUREN'S KIDS