

Preventing child sexual abuse - www.otanvastuun.fi

WHAT?

The goal of the www.otanvastuun.fi "I take responsibility" - online self-help material is to prevent child sexual abuse. The material is targeted to people, who are concerned about their sexual interest; thoughts, feelings or behavior towards children, or who, due other reasons, are at risk of committing a sexual crime against a child.

HOW?

The material provides information about illegal sexual behavior towards children and youth, especially online, and discusses the negative consequences of sexual actions towards minors.

The material follows cognitive-behavioral approach, and stresses the importance of recognizing the connection of one's own feelings, thoughts and behavior. This helps the user to reflect over his/her problematic thoughts, feelings and behavior regarding children, and gain control over problematic thinking and behavior. Another approach used is the Good Lives Model, which assumes that all individuals have similar aspirations and needs and that illegal behaviour can be explained by the lack of resources necessary to satisfy the needs and aspirations using pro - social means. The material encourages the user to look for pro-social ways to satisfy the needs and aspirations.

The material consists of different sections and guides the user through the issues of "When to get worried?", "Sexuality and freedom of expression", "Internet and online interaction", "Online child sexual abuse and online grooming", "Reflecting over own action and life", "Case X" as well as "Mental images and change". There are also sections for exercises and additional information.

The material can be used anonymously, independently, and with no cost. The use is restricted to neither place nor time.

WITH WHOM?

The material is based on the Croga website developed by Lucy Faithfull Foundation, which has been adapted into Finnish context. Several international and national partners have contributed to the development of the material. A significant input has been made by the convicted sex offenders, who were consulted during the design of the material and whose insights have been very valuable throughout the whole process. Active involvement of the sex offenders has enabled continuous evaluation and monitoring of the material.

WHY?

Child sexual abuse is rarely a sudden, spontaneous act, but rather an end result of a process consisting of different phases. The pathway from thinking sexually about a child to sexually abusing a child is often long. It is thus possible, and important, to reach out to people, who are concerned about their interest, thoughts, emotions or behavior towards children, but have not (yet) acted upon them.

The www.otanvastuun.fi website provides an innovative and complementary approach to the work Save the Children Finland has been doing since 2002 to prevent online related child sexual abuse.

In addition to the www.otanvastuun.fi website, Save the Children Finland maintains the Finnish hotline, Nettivihje, which is a member of the International Network of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE). The aim of the network is to prevent the circulation of illegal child sexual abuse material (CSAM) in the internet.

www.otanvastuun.fi website prevents the sexual abuse of children



For more information, please contact:

Jenni Häikiö

Specialist, psychologist

Tel. +358 50 432 1076

jenni.haikio@savethechildren.fi

www.savethechildren.fi

Save the Children Finland