

### **Safe care: Early Childhood Prevention Program**

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Keywords: Prevention, neglect, parent-child interaction.

The Ashdod Municipal Social Services Division currently operates in several unique and complimentary programs intended to treat and prevent child maltreatment.

Safe Care is a structured, evidence-based parenting program that is designed to address the behaviors that can lead to child neglect and abuse. This program has been brought to Israel by the Haruv Institute with the collaboration of our local Services.

The program was developed in the States to offer a more easily disseminated and streamlined program to parents at risk for child abuse and neglect (e.g. young parents; parents with a history of mental health problems, intellectual disabilities; parents with a history of domestic violence).

Safe Care enhances three areas: parent-child/parent-infant interactions, infant and child health, and home safety. All Safe Care modules include baseline assessments and observations of parental knowledge and skills, parent training, and follow-up assessments to monitor change.

The implementation of the Safe Care program which is based on the American model – needed the adjustments to the Israeli population and the welfare system in Israel, which is different from that of the United States.

In addition to having to translate the program from English to Hebrew, the challenges we have faced were related also to the gaps and differences

In the world view between us the gaps in norms of behavior and gaps in the conduct of our populations.

During the seminar, we will present the main points of the programs and will discuss interim conclusions related to the various challenges we have dealt with so far during the implementation of the program.

### **Criminalization of Child Grooming – An Overprotection or a Justified Preventative Tool?**

## **Dana Pugach<sup>1</sup> and Roie Meirovich**

### **Abstract**

The purpose of this article is to review current legal challenges to the criminalization of child grooming, in a world in which technological advances constantly enable new threats.

Grooming techniques – both virtual and physical, vary in form, length and the predator's desired end-result, thus challenging legislators who wish to prevent as many sexual offenses as possible, at the earliest stages, by creating a unified legal systems applicable to all different grooming techniques. Mentioning only a few of those techniques, they can be "friendly", numbing the instinctive awareness in face of looming danger. Alternatively, the grooming manner may be violent in nature, e.g. using threats in order to make him compliant to the predator's demands.

Making things more complicated for the legal system are grooming processes that start as innocent relationships between minors and adults, while the *grooming* aspect, in terms of both intention and action, is only manifest by the very end. In this case, how can innocent behavior be differentiated from the criminal one? And when does the unpunishable stage end and the attempted sexual offence begin? It is clear that the obvious answer, i.e., if the grooming followed by a sexual offence, is not theoretically sound.

As will be shown in this article, theoretical as well as practical hurdles are abundant in this increasingly worrying field of child abuse; beginning with the fundamental question: Should sexual-grooming be established as a preliminary stage of a sexual offence, or should it be criminalized as an independent offence.

Key words: child grooming, child sexual abuse, predators, criminalization.

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Netivim: Presenting a Workshop for Educators on Ways of Dealing with Troubled Children in the Classroom

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**Key words: Abuse , Attachment , change in behavior, self -regulation**

Objective: To present a method educating staff who need to address anger and outbursts of rage of children, who are inept at self -regulation due to abuse.

Method: Workshop format for educational staff: a 30 hour class taught at staff meetings.

Results: Evidence through a follow up study show a change in behavior: Educators who use the method can better reach their students thus enabling them to become better behaved and better students.

Teachers acquire tools that make their communication with all their students who are troubled better.

Conclusions: The method can enable better social and academic functioning in children who were abused to enable better social adjustment in the future and lower violent tendencies in children growing towards adulthood.

Method: teaching techniques of **self, other and dyadic regulation** in order to enable children at risk to turn the teacher child relationship into a form of positive attachment thus providing for children an alternative route to adult attachment.

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**Title:** Entrepreneurship Models in Child Maltreatment Prevention

**Key words:** Entrepreneurship, Child Maltreatment, Neglect, Prevention, Innovation

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**Abstract:**

Child abuse and neglect occurs in all sectors of society and has a destructive impact on growth and development of the child. Prevention of child maltreatment plays a critical role - it saves thousands of children from immediate and long-term suffering, and, as research indicates, every dollar spent on prevention saves many dollars spent on therapy and rehabilitation.

In this field of child maltreatment prevention, entrepreneurship is needed more than ever. 'One in Five' Child Maltreatment Prevention Hub has taken on this challenge and is designed to grow new initiatives and innovative projects which aim to prevent child maltreatment. Entrepreneurs from various fields were selected to receive a package of professional and financial support to help them turn their idea into an operative program.

In this panel we will meet graduates from One in Five Hub and discuss what entrepreneurship in this field means in practice. We will learn from their experiences and vision and discuss challenges and gaps and the contribution of an entrepreneurship framework to the child maltreatment prevention field.