



Missouri Network
Against Child Abuse

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Kiki Saragnese

Director of Prevention & Outreach

Randi Hemme

Prevention & Outreach Program Specialist



Missouri Network Against Child Abuse is the expert in training, community education, and child advocacy for professionals, community members, and partners who provide children with access to safety, justice, and healing.

Get to know



Missouri Network
Against Child Abuse



**Member Support
& Networking**



**Advocacy &
Response**



**Professional
Training &
Certification**



**Community
Education &
Outreach**



Advocacy & Response

- Banning the use of NDAs in cases of child sexual abuse (2025)
- Raising the age of marriage (2025)
- Residential Care Facility Notification Act (2021)
- Trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate child sexual abuse (CSA) education in schools (2018)
- Mandated CSA prevention training for school board members (2018)



Member Support & Networking

- Multi-Disciplinary Team Enhancement Initiative
- SAFE-CARE Network
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Program

Forensic Interviewer



Mental Health Services

Law Enforcement

**Multi
Disciplinary
Team**



SAFE-CARE Provider



Juvenile Office



**Child & Family Advocacy
Services**



Children's Division



Prosecuting Attorney's office



Missouri Network
Against Child Abuse



The SAFE-CARE Network provides medical-forensic training on child physical and sexual abuse and neglect to medical providers, Children's Division employees, and other child and family centered organizations throughout Missouri.

All children who are suspected victims of child abuse are entitled to a medical exam conducted by a specialized medical provider. A medical exam is important:

To diagnose and treat medical conditions that may be related to physical or sexual abuse

To allow for collection of evidence that may be present on the child's body or clothing within 72 hours (pre-pubescent children) and 120 hours (adolescents) in cases of sexual abuse

To ensure the health and well-being of the child

To reassure the child that everything is okay with their body

To document any possible physical and forensic findings



What is Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)?

The sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the **financial benefit of any person, or in exchange for something of value**

Includes situations where a child, whether or not at the direction of another person, **engages in sexual activity in exchange for anything of value, including money, food, shelter, drugs or protection.**

Child sex trafficking

Commercial production of child sexual abuse material

Online transmission of live video



Professional Training & Certification

- ChildFirst Forensic Interview Training
- Missouri Mandated Reporter Facilitator Training
- SAFE-CARE Network Professional Development
- Prevention Skill-Builder Series



Community Education & Outreach

- Stewards of Children Authorized Facilitator Network
- Awareness to Action Missouri Facilitator Network
- Community outreach
- Awareness & prevention campaigns



Mandated Reporter Training

ProtectMOKids.org

**Over 100,000 adults
trained since 2017!**

- Legal responsibilities of mandated reporters
- Child abuse/neglect definitions & indicators
- Plan for responding to suspicions of child abuse/neglect
- Effective reporting



**What is child
sexual abuse?**



Child sexual abuse includes



- Physical sexual contact with a minor (e.g. touching, forced to touch)
- Exposure to sexual behavior or sexually explicit material
- Capturing images or videos of a nude child or engaging a minor in a sexual performance
- Perpetrated by an adult or another child/youth*

**How prevalent is child
sexual abuse?**



1 in 10 children experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.



**Who perpetrates child
sexual abuse?**



90% of children who experience sexual abuse are harmed by someone they know and have a relationship with.



How common is grooming?





Boundary violating behaviors, or grooming, precede sexual abuse in more than 90% of known-perpetrator cases.

**How often is child sexual
abuse initiated by youth?**



Recent research suggests that

70-75%

of child sexual abuse is initiated
by peers or older youth.





**Let's talk
prevention!**

4 Core Prevention Beliefs

1

Child sexual abuse happens in **every community**.

2

Child sexual abuse is **preventable**.

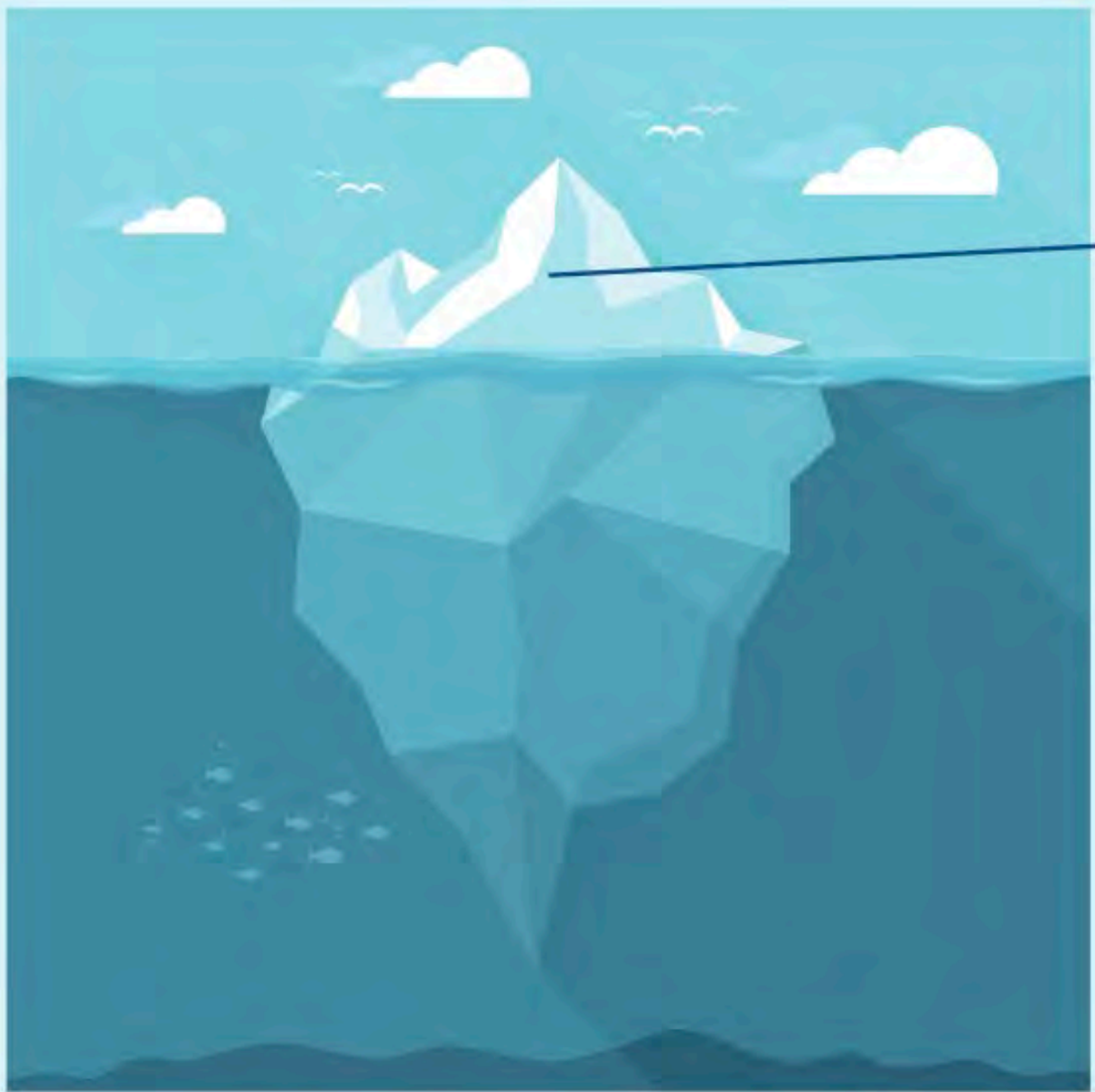
3

Adults are responsible for preventing child sexual abuse.

4

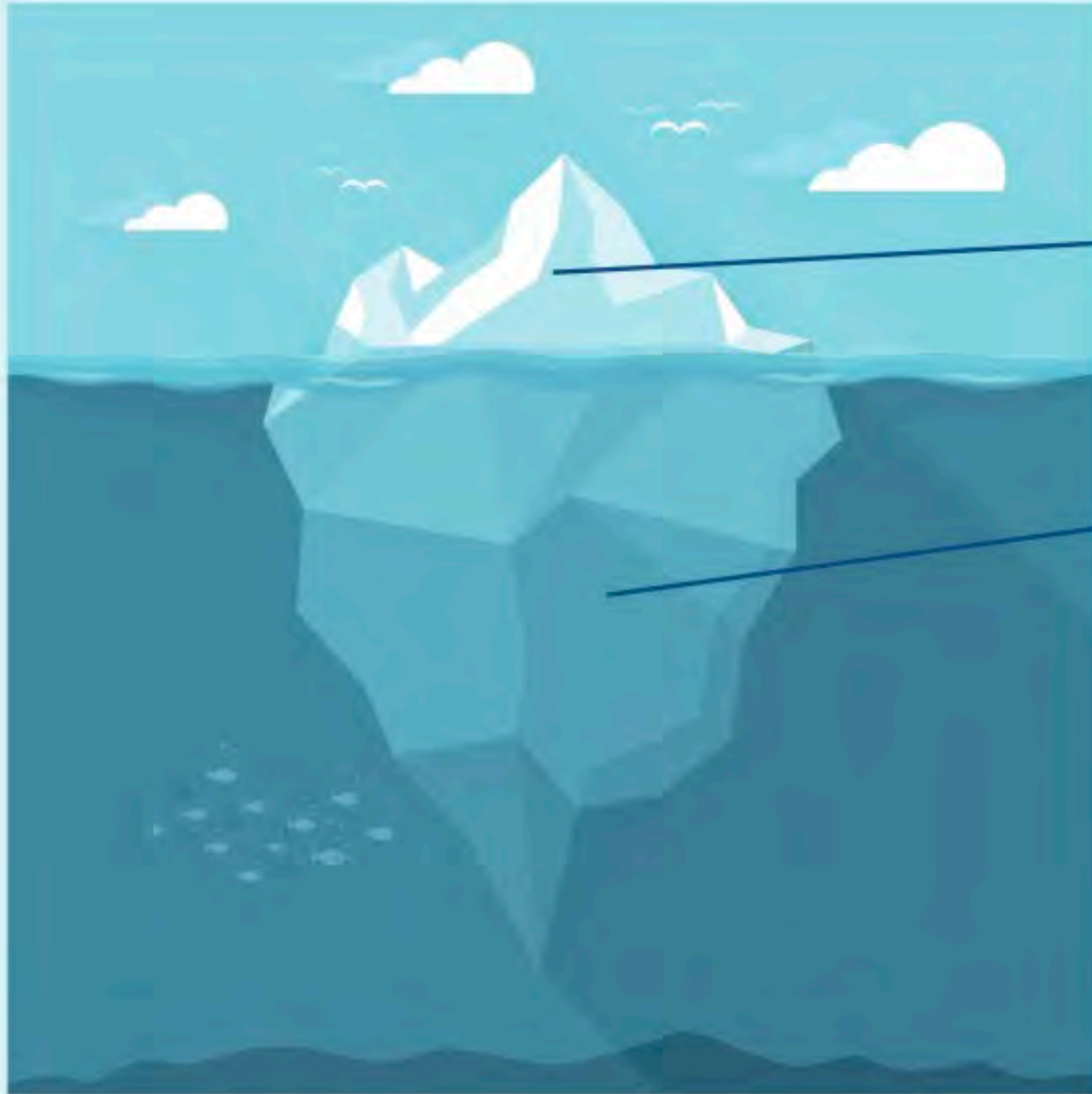
Preventing child sexual abuse requires changing our **behaviors, mindsets, and environments**.





Behaviors

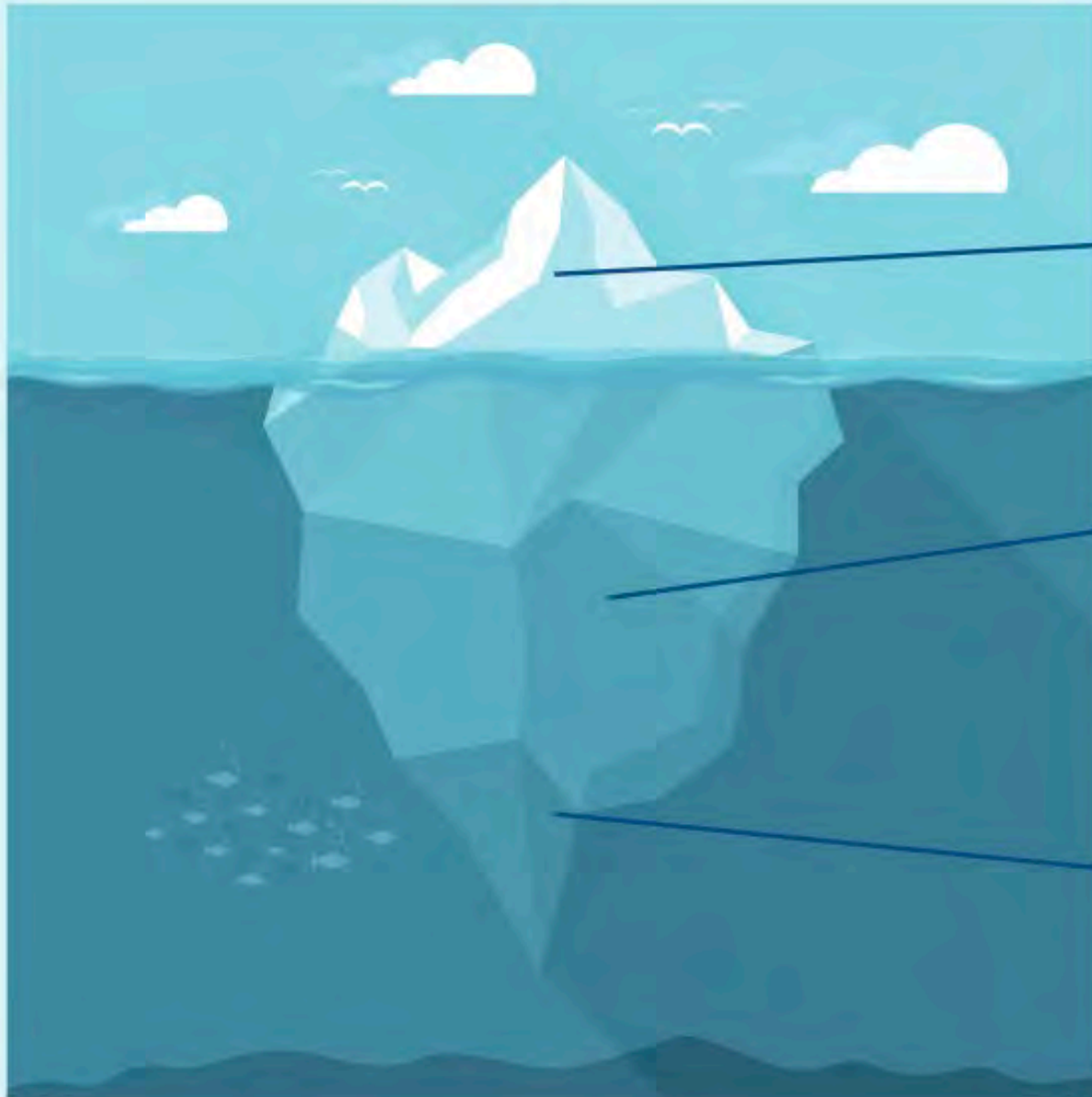
The observable ways we interact with each other and institutions, respond to information, and approach situations.



Behaviors

Narratives

The themes and ideas that permeate collections of cultural stories (e.g. stranger danger).



Behaviors

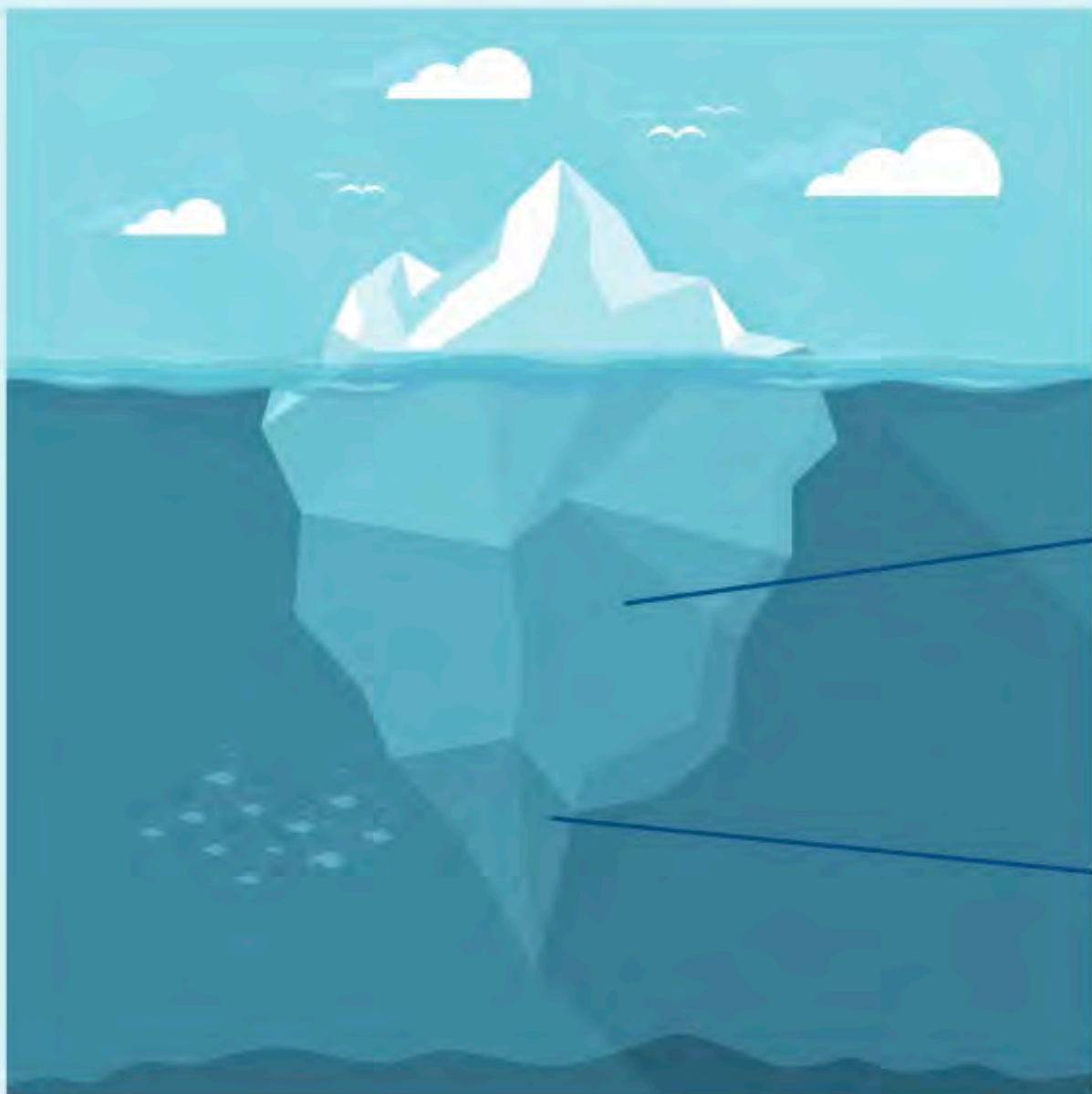
Narratives

Mindsets

Deep, assumed patterns of thinking that shape the way we see and make sense of the world.

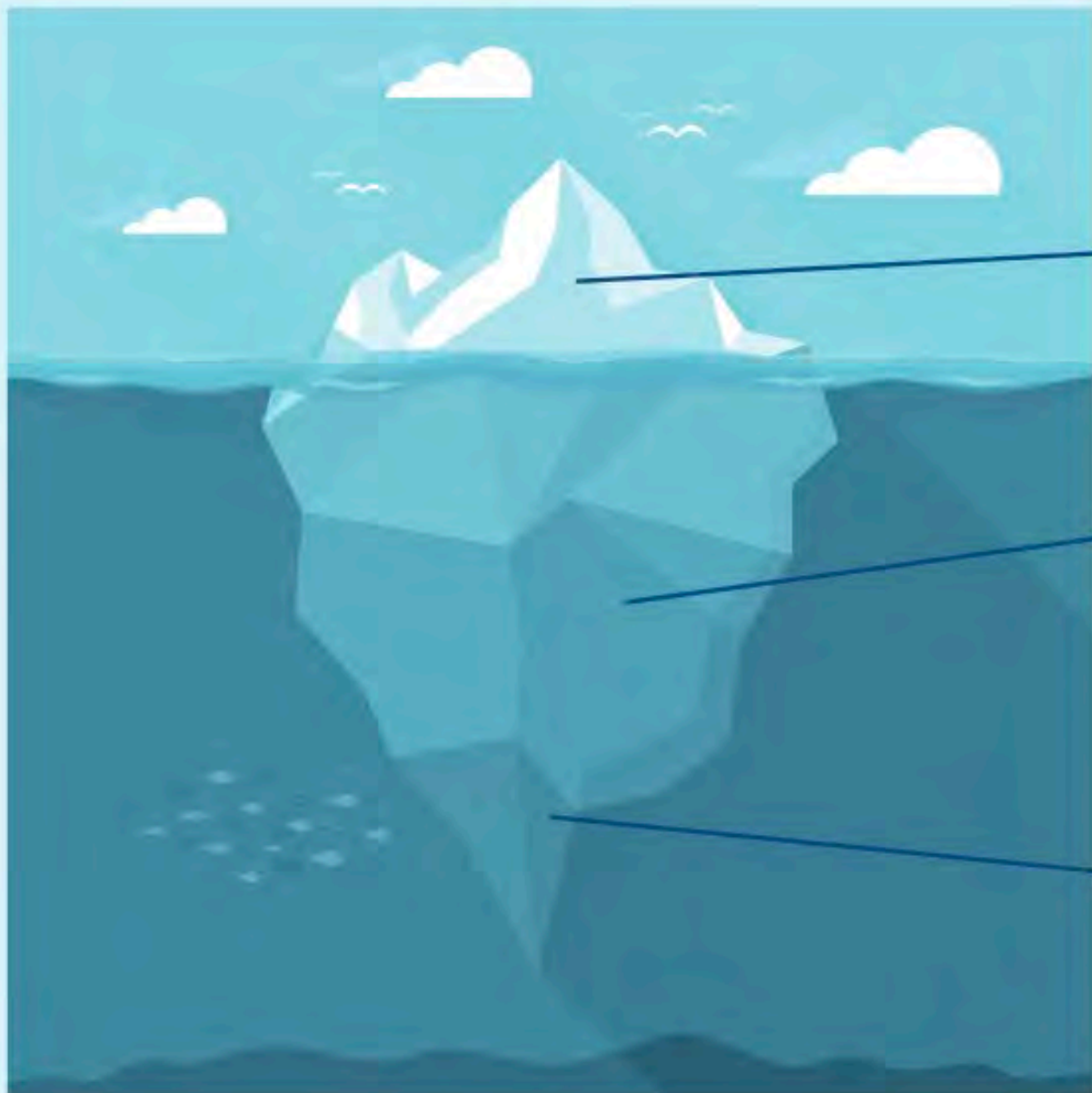


Mindset: “Child sexual abuse is inevitable. There are bad people out there who want to hurt kids and we just have to try to catch them.”



Narratives: Stranger danger; belief that perpetrators are sophisticated and can only be identified by law enforcement

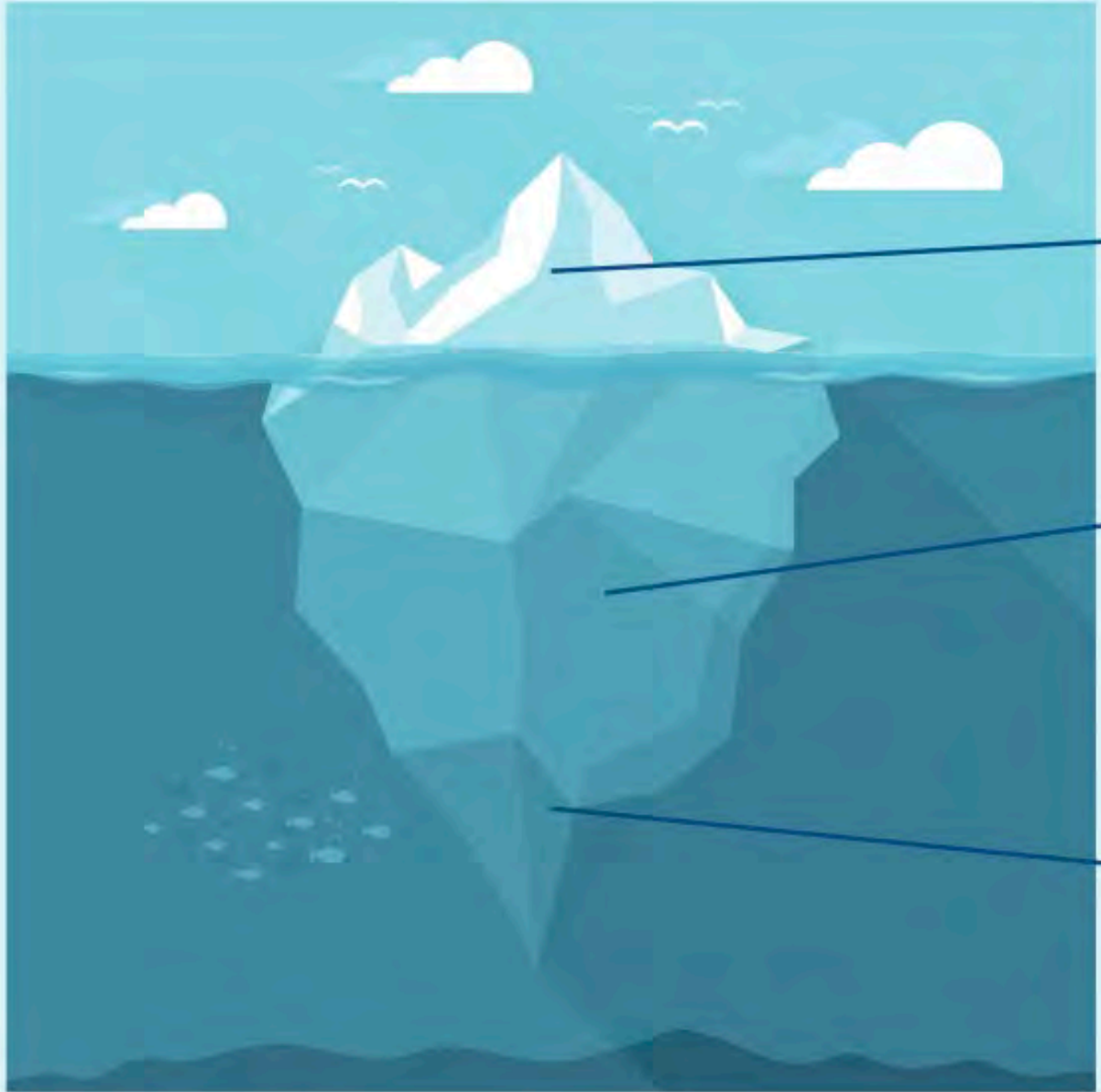
Mindset: “Child sexual abuse is inevitable. There are bad people out there who want to hurt kids and we just have to try to catch them.”



Behaviors: Minimal risk-taking; normalizing boundary-pushing or violating; discomfort around strangers

Narratives: Stranger danger; abusers are clearly identifiable; belief that perpetrators are sophisticated and can only be identified by law enforcement

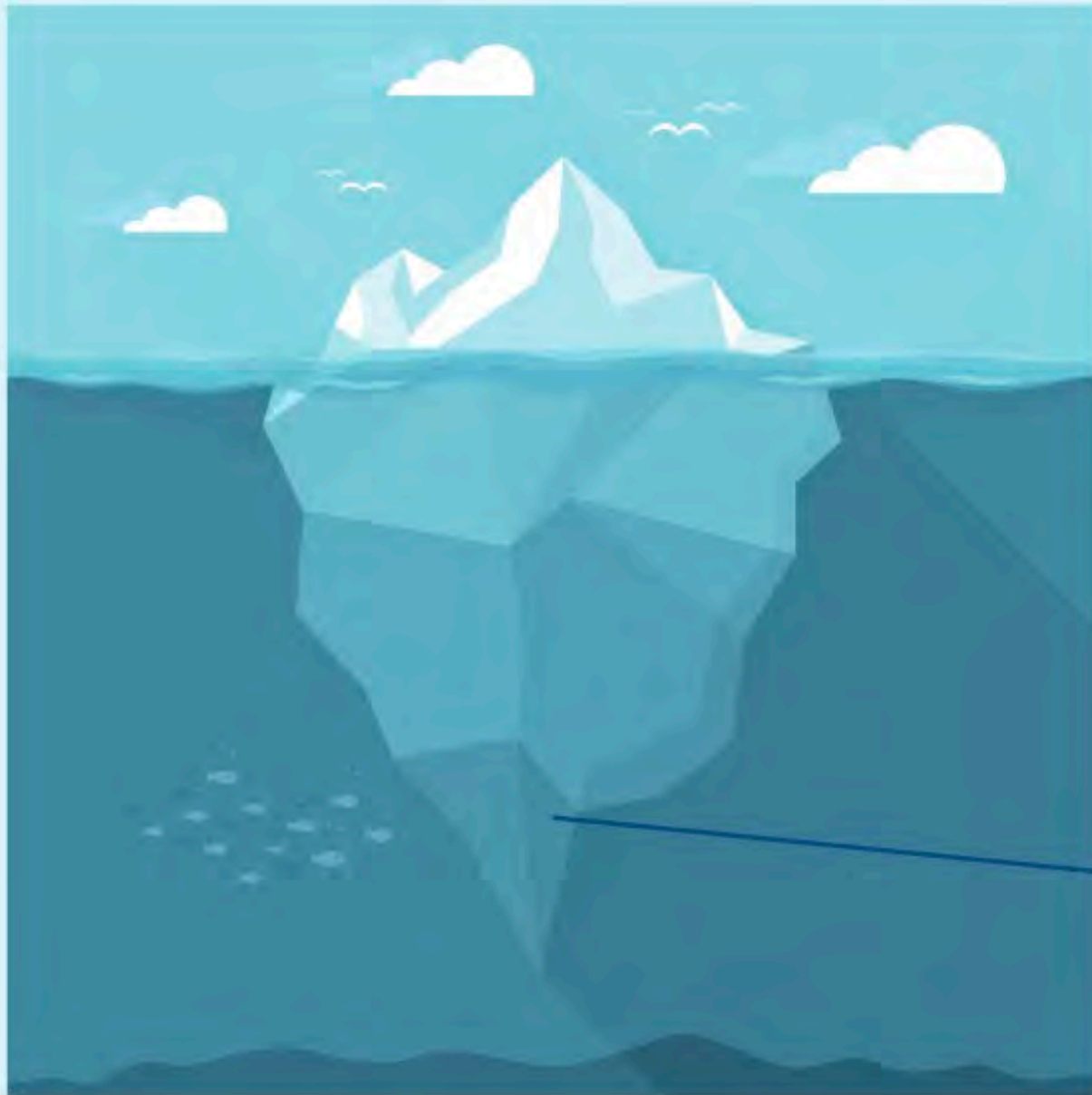
Mindset: “Child sexual abuse is inevitable. There are bad people out there who want to hurt kids and we just have to try to catch them.”



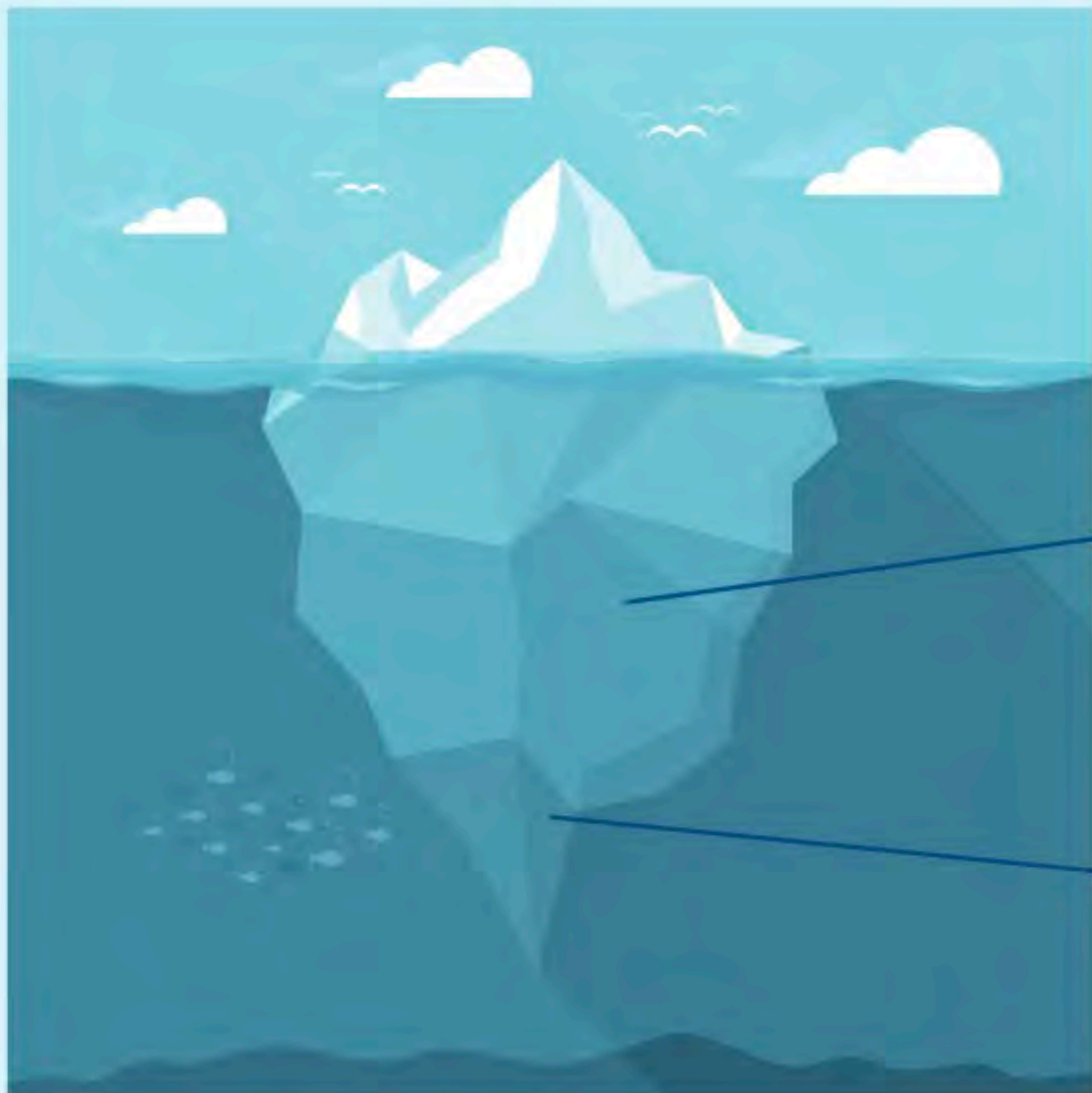
Behaviors

Narratives

Mindsets

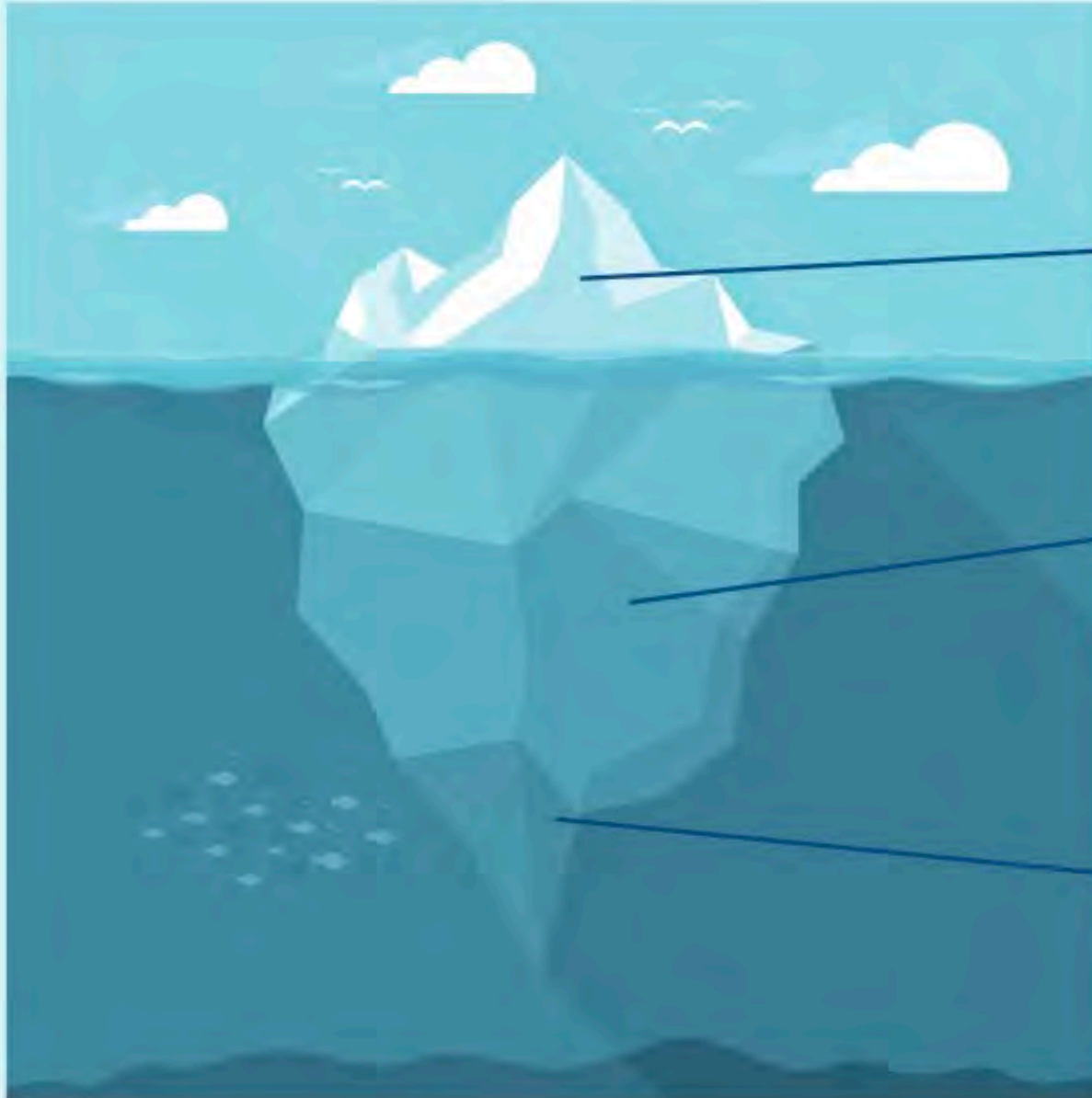


Mindset: Child sexual abuse is preventable and one person can make a difference in keeping kids safe. My voice and actions matter



Narratives: Most people want to keep kids safe; knowledge is power; setting boundaries isn't rude, it's modeling how children deserve to be treated

Mindset: Child sexual abuse is preventable and one person can make a difference in keeping kids safe. My voice and actions matter



Behaviors: Verbalizing boundaries; talking with children in my life about safety & consent; speaking up when I see something concerning, including people in positions of power

Narratives: Most people want to keep kids safe; knowledge is power; setting boundaries isn't rude, it's modeling how children deserve to be treated

Mindset: Child sexual abuse is inevitable. There are bad people out there who want to hurt kids and we just have to try to catch them

Let's practice!



conversation

Kira loves to participate in various extracurricular activities, gets good grades, and is regularly awarded for her efforts. You have noticed that recently she complains of stomach aches and becomes withdrawn and anxious when it's time for softball practice.

How can you ask Kira about these signs you've noticed in a way that encourages open communication?





MISSOURI FACILITATOR NETWORK

- Learn **The 5 Steps to Protecting Children™** & how to apply them in any situation
- Practice adult empowerment skills
- Available virtually or in-person at no cost from trained, trauma-informed facilitators





conversation

What are your concerns with this scenario?

The Youth Center runs after-school programming in your community. TYC has been around for 15 years and a valued community asset. Youth development is a topic you care about, so you decide to volunteer with TYC as a mentor. You know the program manager and she invites you to start next week and assign you to a middle schooler who could use some support. She says that your mentee, DJ, tends to be quiet, but really enjoys spending time outdoors. She recommends that you take DJ on a walk through the park across from the Center to get to know each other on your first day.



Is your organization ready to move from **Awareness to Action** ?



A2A Missouri is
3 hours of training
6 months of consulting
a network of support
for youth-serving organizations
at no cost.

Action Steps



- 1 Keep learning.** Take a training to enhance your personal prevention skills.
- 2 Share what you know.** Talk to the youth & other adults in your life about what you've learned, what safety looks in the places you spend your time, and how to address harmful or boundary violating behaviors.
- 3 Go upstream.** Review policies & protocols at your workplace & organizations. Advocate for protective policies.

Share your feedback!

