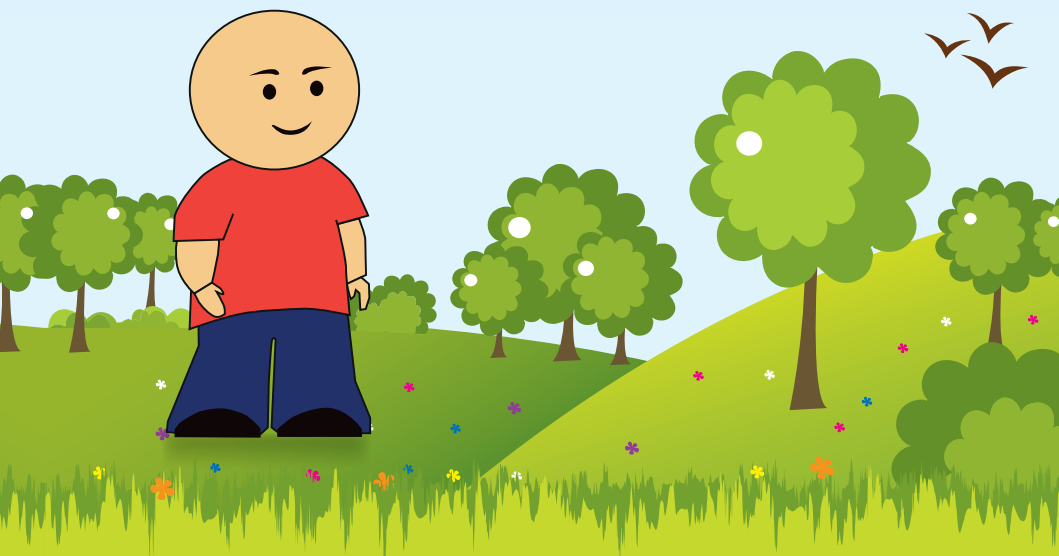


Christine Leitch
Terezinha Aparecida de Lima Candieiro

Child Protection

Guidelines for Parents and Children
You and Your Family Protected Against Child Abuse



***“Fulfilling our MISSION
We reach our VISION”***

Pepe-Network



ABIAH – JMM – JMN

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JMN- National Mission Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention

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1. Introduction

PEPE (Pre-school Educational Program), was developed in various countries in partnership with ABIAH-Brazilian Association of Incentive and Support to Men, World Mission Alliance of the Brazilian Baptist Convention, and National Mission Alliance of the Brazilian Baptist Convention. It was established in order to help children reach their full potential.

PEPE recognizes that people who exert the most influence in a child's development are his or her parents. Regardless of the parent's financial circumstances, every parent should cooperate in providing their children with a better future, filled with hope.

This book was prepared with extreme caution and is available to be used all over the world. We hope that this will be a helpful tool wherever you may be, in discovering ways to protect your children from danger and from the difficulties that life may bring them. We also hope that one may use this resource to teach children how to protect themselves, and therefore grow and develop in a healthy way.

We would like to thank our experienced volunteer Christine Leitch, who helped us in the preparation of this material.

Sincerely,

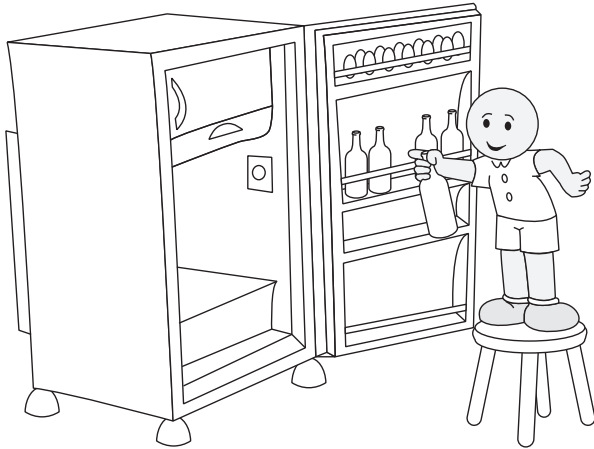
Terezinha Candieiro
International PEPE Coordinator
World Missions Board of CBB

2. Children need to know that they have the right to feel safe

- A child's body belongs to themselves, especially their intimate parts. No one has the right to touch them without their permission, or hurt them. Only a doctor, in the presence of his or her parents, may examine the child's body to make sure they are okay.
- Children must be aware that they must say 'no' to anybody that tries to harm them or attempts to touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or confused.
- Tell your children that you want to protect them and that you would never get angry if they confide in you with any worrying incident that may have occur, regardless if it's a family member, a friend, guardian or nanny.
- Tell your children that they must never keep a secret about people who have touched them in an uncomfortable manner, even if they have promised to keep a secret. Parents should know their children's friends. They must always talk about these issues with their parents or a trustworthy adult.
- Your children need to know that you will always believe in them and help them get through any situation they encounter.

Observation: children rarely lie about sexual abuse. If they are not helped or if they aren't accredited for telling the truth when they express themselves, the abuse will continue for years to come resulting in much suffering for them.

3. Accidents may sometimes occur at home



Children must be supervised and protected from danger. Maintain everything that may be unsafe such as cleaning products, medicine, alcohol, etc. out of their reach.

It is sometimes hard to know where they are playing, so teach them how to play carefully and to play in a safe environment.

Nannies should be responsible and behave accordingly. Ensure that you get a certified nanny as they are not all appropriate.

Are the children scared of the babysitters? Does the babysitter make them feel uncomfortable?

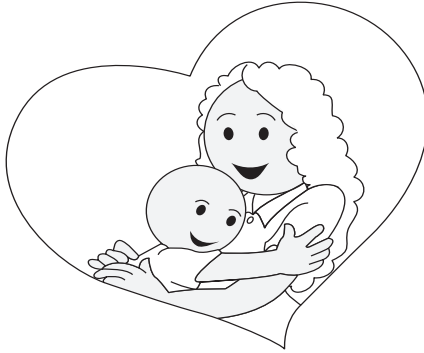
Many pedophiles introduce themselves as babysitters and spend time grooming both the parents and the children.

Most childhood sexual abuse occurs in a situation where the child and the family know the abuser and the perpetrator has often established themselves in a position of trust.

Communication with our children are core components to protection.

We suggest that you share this with your children.

1. Hugging



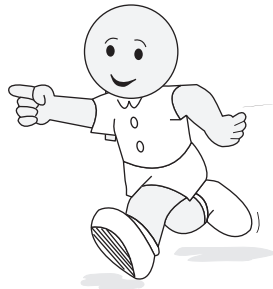
Hugs and kisses may be a good thing. Even when they make children feel good and safe, it should never be kept a secret.

2. Body

Your body belongs to you and no one else. Nobody has the right to hurt you or touch you in a way that doesn't feel look right.

3. Run away!

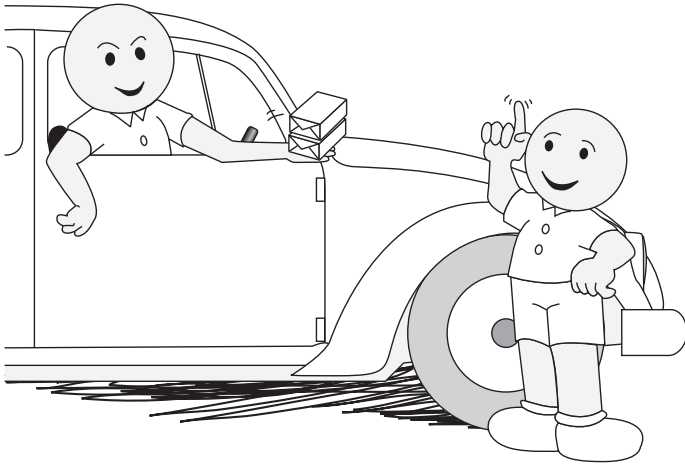
If someone older than you tries to touch you, take you somewhere or mistreat you, run away! Always run away towards other people, or go in to a store.



4. Danger!

Never accept sweets or money from strangers, and never go anywhere with them. Some people give them sweets and later on ask them to do something for them that may be uncomfortable.

5. Scream!



If anyone tries to hurt you or frighten you, scream “NO” or “HELP” as loud as you can.

6. Tell Someone

Tell someone you trust if there is ever anyone who has scared you or made you feel uncomfortable. It will never be your fault if someone older has done this to you. If the first person you tell doesn't believe you, insist on telling someone else until they believe you. It is not easy, but this will protect you. If something has happened a long time ago it is still important to tell someone you trust about it.

4. Parents, remember:

For children to become successful adults with good jobs, and safe home environments they must know this:

Education: Before going to school, children need to have a good breakfast and take a bath. Their uniform must be clean. It is also important to put time aside for homework. We suggest that an adult would read a book with them before bedtime.

Safety: Home must be a safe environment.

Protection: Domestic violence makes children feel frightened and insecure with their parents.

Care for the Child: Being alone at home is not safe for children. A trustworthy adult must take care of them.

Personal care:

- Wash hands
- Brush teeth
- Healthy meals

Being a parent is not easy: a child's joy and future depends on the trust they have in themselves and in the received guidance they take for life.

5. What do children learn at home?

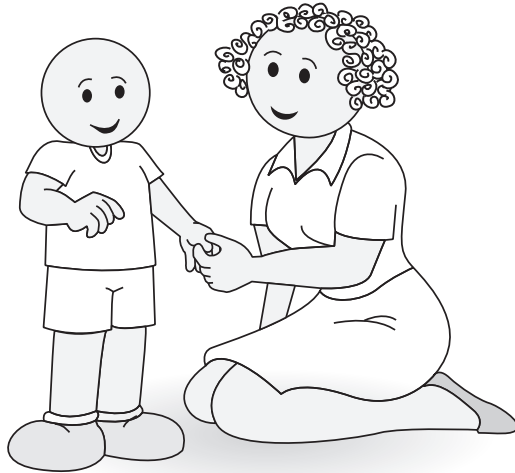
Teach your children right from wrong.

Be a good example; children imitate their parents in the way they speak and act.

Know where the children are and what they are doing. When they grow up, they will be grateful for this firmness and care.

Listen to the advice of older parents or grandparents who have educated their children well, according to you.

Keep your children busy; if they are bored they will find entertainment in other places.



6. Children become confident when they have:

Time

It is very important for parents to give their children time. This involves playing with them, sharing happy moments, or talking about situations that the family is living. Parents can read stories or even ask their children to help out with the chores around the house.

Observation: the television is no substitute for the parents love and attention.



Affection

It is important to demonstrate affection and love for your children. This way they will learn how to demonstrate affection for their parents and others.

Compliments

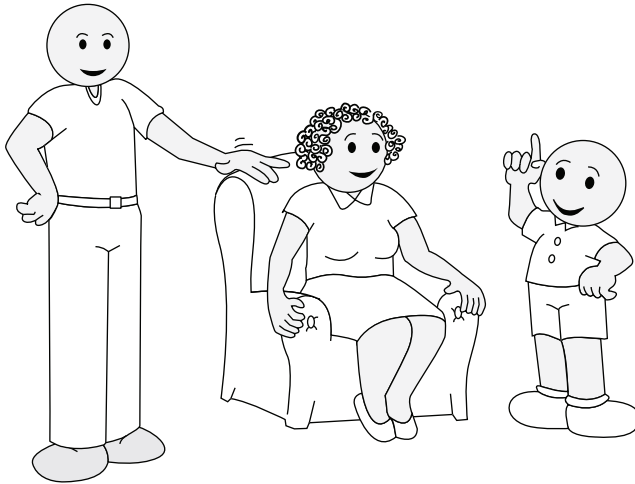
Compliment your children for the good things they have done, or have tried to do; this will encourage them to continue putting in the effort, in order to please you.

Comprehend

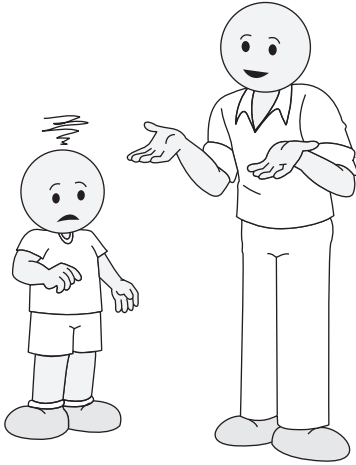
Listen to your children and give them the attention and understanding they need; don't interrupt them. A parent's interest today makes their children want advice in the future.

Conversations

Speak to your children the same way you would like to be spoken to: with respect and understanding. This way, they will learn how to respect parents and others. Don't make the children feel dumb and devalued, talk to them openly about actions and life styles, sharing your hopes for their future.



7. Disciplining your Child:

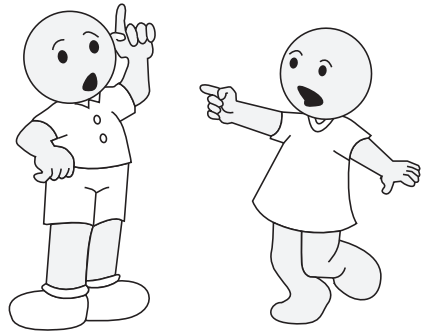


Screaming and hitting teaches your children that it is a good thing to scream and hit; they will learn a twisted concept that bullying will bring you power and your desires will be satisfied. In the growing process, the level of violence may increase and become destructive. It may also destroy a healthy relationship between parents and children.

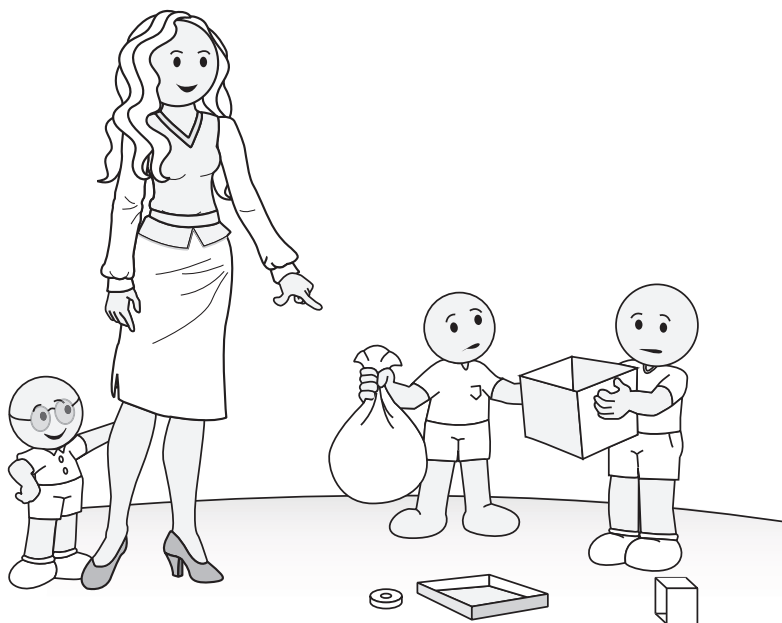
It takes time and patience to discipline your children in other ways, but it is worth it.

When they misbehave try something like this:

- Stay calm; your child knows when he/she has done something wrong. Your anger will not bring good discipline.
- Always try to give your children the attention they need, and compliment them for what they have done right. If ignored, they will conclude that good behaviour doesn't bring much attention just as bad behaviour.

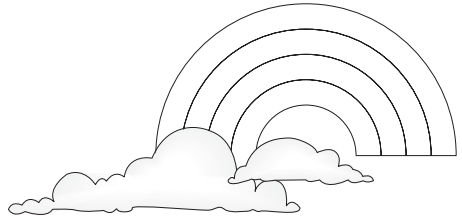


- Your child might be trying to get your attention when he/she misbehaves, preferring to hear your yelling than nothing at all. Your compliments will influence more of their behavior than the punishment, making them feel good about pleasing you with their good attitudes.
- Tell your children what you expect of from them and what will happen if they don't follow through with it. In the case of persisting in disobedience, parents can discipline their children by taking away a toy that they like, taking away television privileges, playing with friends, or sending the kids to bed early.



8. Poem

Children



Children learn what they live.

Children who are always criticized,
learn to be discouraged.

Children who live in hostility
learn how to attack.

Children who live with violence,
learn to be afraid.

Children who are always blamed,
learn to lie.

Children who are treated with respect,
learn to respect.

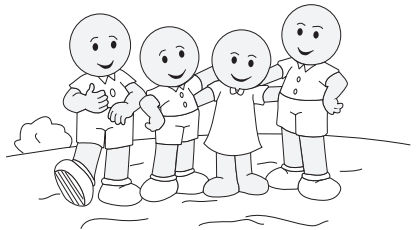
Children who are encouraged,
learn to be confident.

Children who are complimented,
learn to appreciate.

Children who live in safety,
learn to have faith.

Children who are reassured,
learn to like themselves.

Children who live with acceptance and friendship,
learn to discover love in this world.



Adapted from a poem by Dorothy Law

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