



Together...making health and well-being a reality!

Website: [www.AspireIndiana.org/kidstalk](http://www.AspireIndiana.org/kidstalk)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/AspireKidsTalk](https://facebook.com/AspireKidsTalk)

## KIDS TALK CHILD ADVOCACY SERVICES

Children and families need support in navigating the various systems they encounter which may be unfamiliar to them. Crisis intervention, assessment and support services help to assess the child and family's needs; reduce fear and anxiety; and expedite access to appropriate services. The on-staff Victim Advocate works with the child and non-offending caregiver from the time their appointment is scheduled until they feel no additional follow up is needed.

### **For any questions, please contact:**

Becky Oldham, Victim Advocate

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### **The Challenge**

Abuse, neglect, sexual abuse—these are horrific crimes that are extremely personal in nature and difficult for victims to discuss. Like adults, our vulnerable child victims experience shame, fear, guilt and embarrassment and can be reluctant to participate in the investigative process. Getting children to overcome their fear and shame and trust an adult enough to share their experience can be difficult, yet talking about it is the first step to providing safety and healing.

According to the Kids Count Data Center, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Indiana Youth Institute, Madison County has among the highest rate of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect per capita in Indiana.

In 2016 there were 1,286 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Madison County and Kids Talk served 640 children. Clearly, child abuse intervention needs to be a priority in our community.

### **To Learn More, Please Contact:**

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### **A Model for Success**

Kids Talk is based on the child advocacy center model. At its core, the model is about teamwork—bringing agency professionals involved in a case together on the front end. It's about putting the needs of the child first. We do this by:

- Providing a safe and welcoming place for children to be heard
- Bringing the system to the child, by providing a single location for interviewing children rather than having a child taken from agency to agency throughout the investigation and potentially enduring multiple interviews
- Utilizing a certified, forensic interviewer who can meet the informational needs of all investigative professionals involved while remaining child-focused
- Facilitating a collaborative approach among agency investigative professionals that results in effective, efficient and child-centered casework
- Ensuring that parents or caregivers of the children are guided towards programs that will facilitate the healing process for the child and family

### **Our Mission**

Kids Talk is a child-focused location where children can report abuse in a safe and comforting environment.

Kids Talk provides protection and justice through a multi-disciplinary approach including law enforcement, Department of Child Services, the prosecutor's office, mental health, healthcare, and trained advocates.