



Safety Connection: Parent Welcome

Dear Spencerport Parent/Guardian,

This year, each Spencerport elementary school will be using the MBF Child Safety Matters™ program from the Monique Burr Foundation for Children. The goal of the Program is to help keep your child safe.

The Program empowers children to spot and respond to bullying, cyberbullying, child abuse, and digital dangers. Most importantly, it teaches that adults are responsible for children's safety. The Program is based on the latest research. It has been reviewed and endorsed by national experts.

» **Why do we need this program – is there a problem here in Spencerport?** There is not a specific problem in our school district. However, the problems addressed in the curriculum, like bullying and abuse, exist in most schools. The goal is to prevent these problems before they happen.

» **What exactly is covered in the curriculum?** MBF Child Safety Matters covers personal safety, bullying, cyberbullying, all types of child abuse, digital abuse, and other digital dangers. It is designed for elementary-aged children and based on the latest research. The curriculum focuses on teaching children to rely on safe adults for support. Lessons are taught using child-friendly language, using fun games and activities, and take-home items are provided as reminders of the lessons.

» **How are Spencerport parents involved?** Parent involvement is key to the success of this program. Each lesson in the program includes materials to read and activities for parents to do with their children. Our district values the ongoing partnership that we share with our families.

» **Why do schools need to be involved in a prevention program?** Research shows, and our district agrees, that everyone benefits when children are safe. Children who are safe have higher grades in school, have better attendance, and enjoy healthier, happier, and more productive lives.

You can learn more about the Program by going to our district website and clicking on your child's elementary school on the right-hand side. Under "Parent/Student Resources," click on "MBF Child Safety Matters." This will provide you with additional program information. Lessons for grades 3 – 5 will occur from October through January and lessons for students in grades K – 2 will occur from February through May.

Every child deserves to be safe!