



INTRODUCTION

The Community Child Abuse Council of Hamilton-Wentworth is a voluntary organization composed of representatives from over twenty community agencies who are concerned about the societal issue of child abuse.

The mandate of the Council is to reduce the incidence of child abuse and the impact on children of wife assault and other forms of family violence within the community by:

- Developing and implementing prevention programs.
- Increasing public awareness with regard to child abuse and family violence.
- Advocating on behalf of the victims of abuse.

The Council operates a number of very successful and innovative prevention and educational programs:

“Touching”: A Child Abuse Prevention Play

Touching is a fifty minute play about child abuse, relationships and problem solving for children in Kindergarten to Grade Six.

The program consists of:

- Parent previews of the play.
- A workshop for teachers before the play is seen by the students.
- The performance of the play for the children.
- An elaborate Teacher’s kit for use in the classroom to reinforce the concepts which are taught in the play.
- The use of community resource workers to prepare school staff *and* to be available for staff and students after the performance.

“Touching” has been seen by over 60,000 elementary students in Hamilton-Wentworth. The Council has made a commitment to sponsor a tour of the play every year to one quarter of our local schools.

“Touching” has been formally evaluated. The results clearly show that children were able to learn key, child abuse prevention concepts.