

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADE THREE FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION (FLE) OBJECTIVES

The Prince William County Public Schools FLE curriculum complies with Virginia General Assembly legislation and the *Standards of Learning for Family Life Education* and guidelines established by the Virginia Department of Education.

FLE instruction in Kindergarten through Grade 3 focuses on family relationships and child abuse awareness and prevention. Students learn about the importance of families, how families function, and changes in families that may affect daily living. Students also learn the difference between good and bad touch, how to identify and report inappropriate approaches, and ways to stay safe. Elementary counselors collaborate with classroom teachers to deliver FLE instruction in the early elementary grades.

Parents/guardians may opt their child out of all or any part of FLE instruction. Students who are opted out will be provided with non-punitive health activities during FLE instruction. Further information can be found in the parent letter and opt out form that are included in the Code of Behavior distributed at the beginning of the school year and are posted on the PWCS website (www.pwcs.edu).

Family Living

3.1 **Students will identify changes that may occur in family life that affect daily living and produce strong feelings.**

Descriptive Statement: Instruction will include the changes that may occur, including moving to a new house; the addition or birth of a sibling; the birth of a special needs child; death, illness; substance abuse; children leaving home; and separation, divorce, and remarriage. Children are assisted in adjusting to such changes on an individual basis through the teacher-parent team approach to problem solving.

3.2 **Students will give examples of healthy coping strategies for dealing with feelings produced by changes in the family.**

Descriptive Statement: Students will learn there are healthy ways to cope with changes that affect the family and that it is important to express feelings openly in an appropriate way. Coping strategies include vigorous physical activity such as exercises and games; talking about feelings; reading books; and creative expressions such as writing, art, music, dance, and drama.

Personal Safety

3.3 **Students will demonstrate to others how to respond appropriately to good touches and how to handle inappropriate approaches from family members, neighbors, strangers, and others.**

Descriptive Statement: Emphasis is placed on using knowledge elements of good and bad touch to recognize sexually abusive behavior. Instruction will include how to react to good touches, such as smiling, hugging, returning a similar gesture, or by communicating thanks; and how to react to confusing situations or inappropriate touches, such as using words and/or body language and eye contact; avoiding or leaving the situation; and telling a trusted adult.