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Dear Finch Family,

Atlanta Public Schools is focused on the Social Emotional Learning and student well-being. Social Emotional Learning lessons are constantly taught and reinforced in classrooms to support students develop a positive self-concept, emotional literacy, goal setting ability, empathy, and a strong sense of belonging. It also helps our schools become more safe and supportive places where everyone can learn.

[April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#), for the remainder of this month we will focus on the vital role that educators, families and the community play to keep children safe. Therefore, next week as part of the SEL classroom lessons, students will review safety rules. We also are providing resources for families to learn more and guide deeper conversations with our scholars at home.

Resources for Families:

Second Step.org (our primary SEL classroom based curriculum) has a bank of resources including videos and guides for parents/caregivers to have age appropriate conversations with their children regarding safety and sexual abuse prevention. Please see the link below to the "Hot Chocolate Talk Campaign", promoting the importance of the little conversations that can make a big difference for families.

Hot Chocolate Campaign: https://www.cfchildren.org/resources/child-abuse-prevention/?utm_source=hct-educators-page&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=hct

Family Conversation Guide: https://www.cfchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/press/press-kit/hot-chocolate-talk/docs/hot-chocolate-talk-2021-conversation-guide.pdf?utm_source=hct-press-kit&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=hct

Book List for Parent/Caregivers to Abuse Prevention and Response:

https://www.cfchildren.org/blog/2018/04/books-to-help-parents-talk-about-sexual-abuse/?utm_source=hct-educators-page&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=hct

ParentTEEN focuses on issues older elementary school children and teens face regarding safety, responsibility and communication. As students are on screens more than ever, screen-limits and internet safety have come to the forefront, this is a great resource for parents/caregivers to think through topics such as screen-time limits and internet safety, for their children.

ParentTEEN Resources: <https://www.parentteenconnect.org/>

Thank you for your continued support of the SEL program at your school. Please reach out to your school SEL liaison or administration for additional resources or questions. Together we can create safer and healthier environments for our children.

In Support,

Anntionette Thompson, Ed. S.

Anntionette Thompson & The APS SEL Department

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