



BS"D

Dear Parents,

We are so happy to share our safety themed coloring pages with you. This project has been a labor of love for all of us at Magen- our staff spend their days supporting survivors of abuse through some of the worst horrors possible, and it is a blessing to have the opportunity to create a proactive, positive, and fun way to increase awareness and knowledge around safeguarding.

Before you set your child up to color with crayons and markers, there are a couple of points we ask you to keep in mind.

-We have created two different versions of the coloring pages, for *chareidi* families and *dati* families. As you will notice, they are quite similar, but we believe it important that with such a sensitive topic, parents and children see figures who look and dress just like them, and scenes they can relate to.

- Like so many other wonderful books and resources out there, these coloring pages are a tool to help you familiarize your children with the concepts of body autonomy and safety, and to help you springboard conversations with your child. Tools are only as effective as their users, so we encourage you to seek out other resources, books, articles, and lectures, to learn more about child safeguarding and how to be a proactive safe adult. (To organize a workshop for parents in your community, contact us at 02-372-4073)

- When having conversations with your children about their personal safety and autonomy, please remember that child safeguarding is the responsibility of adults, not children. We can (and must!) empower and educate our children, but the ultimate responsibility for their safety lies with us, the adults in our community and society. This means knowing the red flags, respecting children's age-appropriate boundaries, and addressing boundary violations and abuse when it happens - are up to us. Children need to know that abuse and boundary violations are never their fault; even if they have been well educated, it is still very difficult for a child to speak out or defend themselves against an adult or child who is bigger, older, and knows more than they do. Most importantly, they need to know that they can speak to you about anything, even if it's very upsetting and happened a long time ago.

- Keep in mind that learning about personal safety and autonomy is about more than protecting your child from being abused, it's also about raising children who feel confident and safe in their bodies, can understand boundaries (their own and others), and know that they are special and worth protecting. We encourage you to use these coloring pages as an opportunity to have board discussions around all of these issues.

Wishing you and your family only goodness and safety,
Happy coloring!