

## **Eight Common Myths About Child Sexual Abuse** **by Dr. Anna Salter, PHD**

**Myth 1:** Normal-appearing, well educated, middle-class people don't molest children.

**Myth 2:** People are too quick to believe an abuser is guilty, even if there is no supporting evidence.

**Myth 3:** Child molesters molest indiscriminately.

**Myth 4:** Children who are being abused would immediately tell their parents.

**Myth 5:** Children who are being abused will show physical evidence of abuse.

**Myth 6:** Hundreds of innocent men and women have been falsely accused and sent to prison for molesting children.

**Myth 7:** If asked about abuse, children tend to exaggerate and are prone to making false accusations.

**Myth 8:** By using repeated interviews, therapists or police can easily implant false memories and cause false accusations among children of any age.