



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SAFE KIDS

THE YMCA'S CHILD PROTECTION STEPS

- **SCREENS STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS** - all staff with national criminal background and reference checks; volunteers with background checks
- **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING** for all staff
- **CAREFUL SUPERVISION AND MONITORING** of our programs
- **EMPHASIS ON OUR OBLIGATION AS MANDATORY REPORTERS** of suspected child abuse
- **ESTABLISHED YMCA GUIDELINES** for staff and volunteers regarding appropriate physical, verbal and interactions with children/youth
- **PROGRAM DESIGN** that prevents staff and volunteers from being alone with a child/youth where they cannot be observed by others
- **POLICIES LIMIT STAFF CONTACT** with children/youth outside of YMCA programs or where one-adult/one-child situations could occur

PARENTS' CHILD PROTECTION STEPS

- P** **PAY ATTENTION** to changes in behavior, such as sleeping or eating patterns, fear of a person or place and discomfort with physical contact.
- R** **REPORT CONCERNS** about staff or a volunteer. Call the YMCA, call our anonymous report number, **888-723-7329**, or use **ethicspoint.com**.
- O** **OBSERVE** your child/youth's programs by dropping in and asking questions.
- T** **TALK TO THEM** about his or her experiences in YMCA programs, school, sports, church and other activities.
- E** **EDUCATE YOURSELF!** Learn more about protecting your child at **darkness2light.org**.
- C** **CONTROL** your child/youth's isolated interactions and watch for signs they are receiving extra attention (treats, gifts, rides, etc).
- T** **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!** Tell us if something seems "strange."



Questions you can ask...

- Is anyone touching you in a way that you don't like?
- Has anyone said anything to you that made you feel bad?
- Is anyone asking you to keep secrets?
- Is anyone scaring or threatening you?