



Working Together for Safety

Talk to your child about his or her experiences in YMCA programs, school, sports, and other activities.

Drop in on your child's programs.

Trust your instincts. Don't wait to tell someone if something seems "strange." Speak up!

Watch for warning signs of abuse:

- ◇ Unexplainable bruising or other physical markings
- ◇ Disturbed sleeping or eating patterns
- ◇ Abrupt changes in behavior—anxiety, clinging, aggressiveness, withdrawal, depression
- ◇ Fear of certain person or place
- ◇ Discomfort with physical contact
- ◇ A child who abuses other children

Listen and watch for signs of your child receiving special attention that other children or teens are not receiving, including favors, treats, gifts, rides, increasing affect ion or time alone, particularly outside the activities of school, child care, or other activities.

Every once in a while, ask your child these questions:

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

Encourage your child to tell you or another trusted adult if anything happens to him or her.

Read our Code of Conduct. If someone breaks it, let us know immediately.

Community Resources



Reporting Suspected Cases of Child Abuse

PA ChildLine

1-800-932-0313

Child Abuse Helplines

PA Coalition Against Rape

1-888-772-7227

Cumberland/Perry Crisis Helpline

1-866-350-4357

Dauphin County Helpline

717-652-4400

Pinnacle Health Children's Resource Center

717-782-6802

Support Groups and Healing

Pinnacle Health Children and Teen Center

717-782-4650

Holy Spirit Women's Resource Center

717-763-2228

Join the Movement - Empower People to Prevent Child Abuse

www.darkness2light.org



**DARKNESS
to LIGHT**
END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE



Working Together for Safety

Creating A Child Safe Environment



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

YMCA and Youth

Parents trust in the YMCA to help their children thrive. Our core values - caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility - are part of everything we do. Because of this, we place great value on creating the most child-safe environment possible.

The Harrisburg Area YMCA has Youth Programs at all of our branches:

Camp Curtin YMCA

2135 N. 6th Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

East Shore YMCA

701 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Northern Dauphin County YMCA

500 N. Church Street
Elizabethville, PA 17023

West Shore YMCA

410 Fallowfield Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011



YMCA Child Safe Policy

OUR STAFF

The Harrisburg Area YMCA has more than 1,300 staff members and volunteers working with youth in the many programs we offer.

OUR SCREENING

To keep children in our programs safe, we take the following steps in our intensive screening of employees and volunteers:

- ◇ Detailed application forms
- ◇ Comprehensive interview process
- ◇ Reference Checks
- ◇ Criminal background record checks and fingerprinting

OUR TRAINING

Employees and volunteers complete an extensive child abuse prevention training program further promote a child-safe environment. All staff members are mandated to report suspected child abuse. Staff and volunteers are required to be trained in the Darkness 2 Light - **Stewards of Children** Child Sexual Abuse Prevention training at time of hire.

OUR POLICIES

Staff is prohibited from working one-on-one with youth outside of the YMCA (i.e. babysitting). Policies exist to ensure staff and volunteers are not alone with a child.

Information About Abuse



The YMCA wants all children to be safe. Unfortunately, child abuse does exist, taking many forms.

Emotional Abuse - Threatening a child or using words that can hurt a child's feelings and self-esteem; withholding love and support from a child

Physical Abuse - Causing injuries to a child on purpose, such as bruises, burns, scars, or broken bones

Sexual Abuse - Having sexual contact in any form with a child, including exposing, fondling, intercourse, pornography, or internet solicitation

Neglect - Not providing children with enough food, clothing, shelter, medical care, hygiene, or supervision

**IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE CALL
PA CHILDLINE AT 1-800-932-0313**

