



Helping Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

# 3 STEPS

## FOR CHOOSING A CHILD SAFE ORGANIZATION

When choosing an organization for your child to attend (such as a sports facility, school or child care facility) it is important to know the policies that are in place to protect your child from sexual abuse. The following steps will guide you through a process to help you choose a safe organization for your child to attend.



## STEP ONE:

### GET TO KNOW THE ORGANIZATION

- ➔ What do you know about the organization's history, mandate, organizational structure, and values?
- ➔ Visit the organization for a tour. What impression were you left with after visiting?
- ➔ What did you notice about the environment, the employee/volunteer's interactions with children and with each other?
- ➔ Is the organization transparent: open to questions about child protection and outside ideas?
- ➔ Does the organization have an open-door policy for addressing concerns?
- ➔ Are parents welcome to stay and watch activities?
- ➔ How is parental involvement encouraged?

## STEP TWO:

### BEFORE CHOOSING THE ORGANIZATION, ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- ➔ Does your organization train staff about child sexual abuse?
- ➔ Does your organization have a Code of Conduct for adults working with children? Does it outline clear expectations about boundaries between staff and children? For volunteers? For children? For parents?
- ➔ How are staff and volunteer interactions with children supervised?
- ➔ Do you have screening and hiring processes for staff and volunteers? (e.g. Interview process, background checks, etc.)
- ➔ How is staff misconduct handled?
- ➔ What is the organization's policy for reporting child abuse or staff misconduct?

## STEP THREE:

### ASK SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW RISK IS MANAGED FOR ACTIVITIES THAT INCLUDE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ➔ Naptime
- ➔ Toileting children
- ➔ One-on-one time with children
- ➔ Offsite activities (e.g. Field trips, walks, swimming programs, etc.)
- ➔ Transportation of children
- ➔ Overnight trips (e.g. Camps, tournaments, overnight stays at museum, etc.)
- ➔ Children visiting staff homes (e.g. Activities that are held at a staff member's house, sleepovers, etc.)
- ➔ Staff having contact with the children outside their work duties
- ➔ Staff offering activities or services for the children after hours (e.g. Sport clubs, tutoring, babysitting, trips, etc.)
- ➔ Staff visiting a child's home

Note: Consider adult-child ratios, formalized procedures and staff accountability, etc.



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A PROGRAM TO HELP CHILD-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE.