



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SAFE KIDS

THE SOUTH SHORE YMCA'S CHILD PROTECTION STEPS

- **Screen Staff and Volunteers** – all staff/volunteers with national criminal background and reference checks
- **Child Abuse Prevention Training** for all staff
- **Careful Supervision and Monitoring** of all programs
- **Emphasis on Our Obligation as Mandatory Reporters** of suspected child abuse
- **Established South Shore 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 Limiting Staff Contact** with children/youth outside of the South Shore 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. You may call Laureen Browning, Executive Director of Youth Development at 617-479-8500 ext. 169.
- O Observe** your child/youth's programs by dropping in and asking questions.
- T Talk to Them** about their experiences in the South Shore YMCA programs, school, sports, church and other activities.
- E Educate Yourself!** Learn more about protecting your child at Darkness to Light www.d2l.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 to 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?

SOUTH SHORE YMCA
ssymca.org