



25
YEARS

Kidpower: Child Advocacy in Action

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The mission of Kidpower of Colorado is to teach young people personal safety and confidence-building skills to reduce their risk of abduction, assault and emotional, physical and sexual abuse.



Safety First.

Kidpower's core principle is:

*The safety and healthy self-esteem of a child
is more important than anyone's
embarrassment, inconvenience or offense.*



**“Every child deserves a champion;
an adult who will never give up on
them, who understands the power
of connection and insists that they
become the best they can be.”**

~ Rita Pierson

Signs to Watch For – Appearance

- Unexplained bruises
- Lack of care of appearance or hygiene
- Tired or listless

Signs to Watch For – Behavior

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Defiance
- Mood swings
- Unexplained emotional outbursts
- Problems with attention
- High-risk behaviors, including substance abuse
- Social changes
- Physical Complaints
- Suicidal thoughts/actions

The “Check-In”

- I’ve noticed...
- Is something bothering you?
- What’s up?



Responding to Disclosure

Do:

- ▶ Remain calm, keep an open mind, and suspend judgment.
- ▶ Listen with compassion and without interruption.
- ▶ Find a quiet, private place to talk to the child.
- ▶ Reassure the child that he/she has done the right thing by telling someone. “Thank you for telling me.”
- ▶ Record concrete information. Ask general questions to figure out the nature of the problem.
- ▶ Tell the child that there is help available.
- ▶ Let the child know you must report the abuse to someone who has helped other children and families in similar situations.

Responding to Disclosure

Do:

- ▶ Report the incident to the proper authorities (Law enforcement, US Center for SafeSport).
- ▶ Let the child know what will happen when the report is made (if you have the appropriate information).
- ▶ Seek out your own support to help you with feelings about the disclosure (if needed).
- ▶ Be aware of your own personal issues and how they affect your perception.
- ▶ If more than one child was involved, keep the children separated to preserve the accuracy of their statements for law enforcement.
- ▶ Protect the child from further harm, including retaliation.

Responding to Disclosure

Don't:

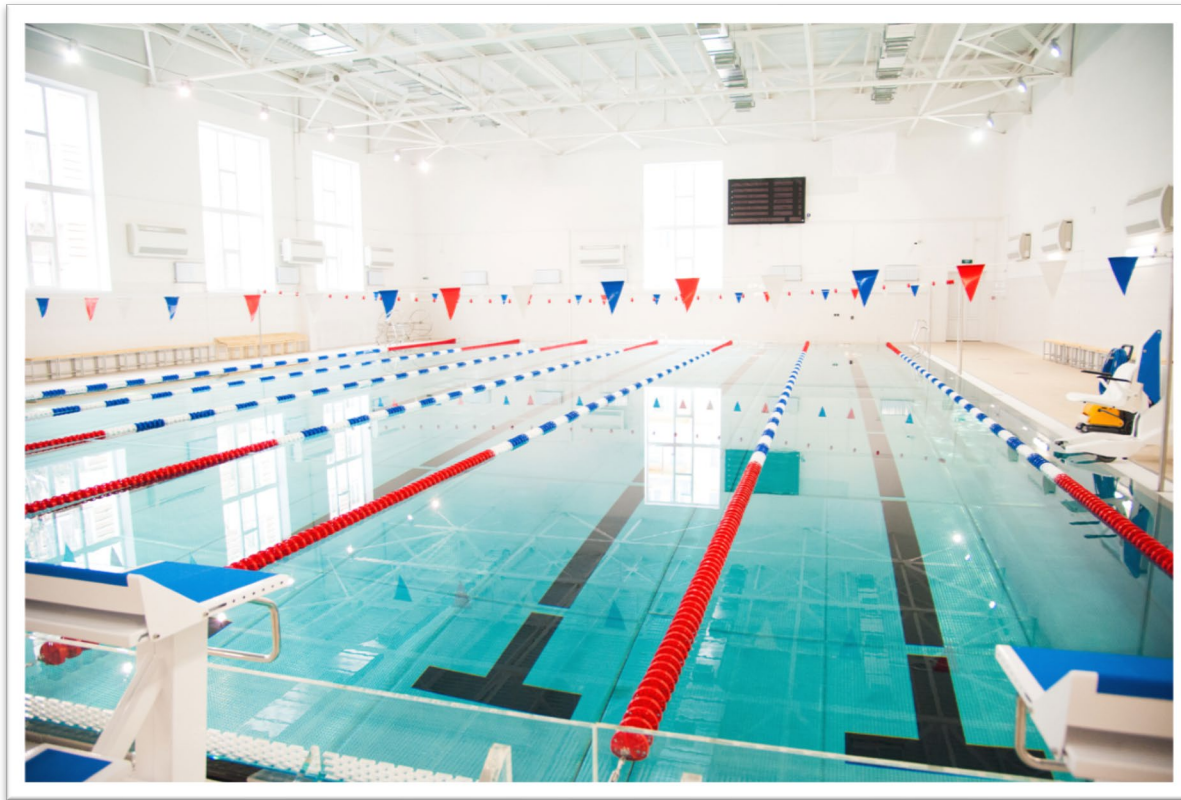
- ▶ Promise confidentiality.
- ▶ Express panic or shock.
- ▶ Convey impatience if the child is not ready to discuss abuse.
- ▶ Give advice.
- ▶ Make negative comments about the perpetrator.
- ▶ Disclose the information indiscriminately. Tell only those adults who need the information to protect and support the child.

Kidpower Protection Promise

You are VERY important to me!
If you have a safety problem, I want to know—
even if I seem too busy,
even if someone we care about will be upset,
even if it is embarrassing, even if you promised
not to tell, and
even if you made a mistake.
Please tell me, and I will do everything in my
power to help you.

What are Boundaries?

An interpersonal boundary is the ability to know where you end and the other person begins.



Dual Relationships / Multiple Hats



Coach / Parent

Parent / Official

Teacher / Coach

Coach / Friend

Team B.O.D / Parent / Coach

Parent / Volunteer / Decision-Maker

The Boundary Dance

Step in, step out



Continuum of Boundaries



Concept adapted
from NCSBN

<https://www.ncsbn.org/professional-boundaries.htm>

Time to Practice

Stickies and Trickies

Skills Building

**“Rear View Mirror” –
Peer consultation**



Additional Resources

- ▶ Being Worthy of Trust to Keep Kids Safe from Abuse, Bullying, and Other Harm
<https://www.kidpower.org/library/article/worthy-of-trust/>
- ▶ Touch and Consent in Healthy Relationships
<https://www.kidpower.org/library/article/consent/>
- ▶ How Can I Avoid Being Accused of Abuse? <https://www.kidpower.org/library/article/avoid-being-accused/>
- ▶ What Does a Child Abuser Look Like?
<https://www.kidpower.org/blog/what-does-child-abuser-look-like/>
- ▶ Assertive Advocacy Communication Skills <https://www.kidpower.org/library/article/assertive-advocacy/>
- ▶ Integrity in Communication
<https://www.kidpower.org/library/article/integrity-communication/>
- ▶ Seven Steps to Take When a Child Reports Possible Abuse, Hazing, Bullying or Anything that Bothers Them
<https://www.kidpower.org/library/article/what-if-a-child-comes-to-you-for-help/>
- ▶ Doing Right by Our Kids *Protecting Child Safety at All Levels* by Amy Tiemann PhD and Irene van der Zande, Founder of Kidpower International https://www.amazon.com/Doing-Right-Our-Kids-Protecting/dp/0976498049/ref=sr_1_sc_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1548545613&sr=8-1-spell&keywords=Doint+right+by+our+kids

Thank you for your time, dedication and commitment to keeping kids healthy, happy and safe.

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