



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CHILD SAFETY OUTSIDE THE YMCA

The Y follows strict child safety standards in all of its programs. The following standards should be followed by any Y or non-Y program that your child attends:

Screening & Hiring Practices: Ask any program where your children attend what their hiring practices are. Is there an interview? Are references, previous work experience, and staff/volunteer background check part of their hiring and training practices?

Training: Ask what trainings staff and volunteers attend. Does training include written policies, training materials, and rules for how to appropriately interact with children? Are there additional trainings for field trips, water safety, and transportation? Are staff and volunteers certified in CPR and First Aid? Have they been trained in child abuse prevention and mandatory reporting? Ask about the program's approach to discipline.

Safety: Children's safety should be the top priority of any youth program. Does the program set ratios between staff/volunteers and children? How are children with specific and special needs accommodated? Are there systems in place for arrival/departure, as well as who's approved to pick up a child? Other safety topics to ask about include hygiene practices, protocol for both minor injuries and emergencies, and secure environments.

Communication: How do parents/guardians communicate with the program? How are families informed about illness protocol, daily routines, food/meal issues? Are extended hours available and, if yes, what are the costs? Are there clear rules and policies around electronics and staff communication with children?

Visit preventabuse.com for more abuse prevention resources.