



SCREENING

Screening lets applicants know that we take the safety of children very seriously.

What steps are involved in careful screening?

- ▶ Use a standard application.
- ▶ Conduct a face-to-face interview.
- ▶ Check references.
- ▶ Complete a criminal background check.
- ▶ Check local, state, and federal sex offender registries.

INTERACTING

When everyone knows what is and is not appropriate, we can more easily identify interactions that break the rules. People who go beyond the parameters place themselves in a position to be misunderstood.

What are some examples of interactions that are positive and appropriate between adults in ministries and children?

- ▶ Verbal praise
- ▶ Special recognition
- ▶ Age-appropriate hugs
- ▶ Arm around the shoulder
- ▶ High fives

What are some examples of interactions that are not appropriate between adults in ministries and children?

- ▶ Holding an older child in your lap
- ▶ Inviting kids to spend the night
- ▶ Wrestling
- ▶ Massages
- ▶ Repeatedly bumping into a child



MONITORING

Monitoring allows us to detect problems before they turn into an incident or allegation of abuse.

How can we monitor our programs?

- ▶ Involve more than one adult in each program and activity.
- ▶ Write a supervision plan.
- ▶ Encourage parents to visit and drop in.
- ▶ Church officials should review new programs carefully.
- ▶ Remove obstructions from doors and windows.
- ▶ Keep unused rooms locked.

TRAINING

What do adults need to know?

- ▶ How sexual abuse happens and how molesters behave.
- ▶ How to recognize the difference between appropriate actions and inappropriate actions between adults and children.
- ▶ How to ask questions and talk to our supervisors if we notice something suspicious.
- ▶ Why it's important to respond quickly if we see things that concern us.
- ▶ How we can all know the rules and expectations through our diocesan policies.

RESPONDING

The sooner we react, the more likely we are to actually help prevent abuse. If abuse has already occurred, the sooner it is stopped, the more time the child has to heal.

What do we do if we see someone break a policy or if we suspect abuse? What are some ways we can respond?

- ▶ Talk to the person involved.
- ▶ Talk to the program director or the person's supervisor.
- ▶ Report anonymously.
- ▶ Report to protective services or the police.